

Miners' leaders press claim for 92% and in eight-month deal

union leaders yesterday
a 10 per cent offer and
to press for 92 per cent and
m to their former pay
sary date in November, an
interval of only eight months.
They will challenge the incomes
policy on the ground that it has no
legal authority and will seek to
meet the Prime Minister.

gality of pay policy challenged

outledge
itor
leaders shifted the
on pay restraint
to the political arena
after rejecting a 10
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al Coal Board. They
g meetings with the
ister and Mr Len
general secretary of
over an official claim
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on the ground that
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nion of Mineworkers,
by the most militant
the labour movement,
an Alliance Insurance
which is also chal-
a legal validity of the
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ment and the TUC
Plumley decide on
move. The union
meet on February
the impact of their
political initiative.
eph Gormley, pres-
NUM, said the coal
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ey, claim, the miners

Britain may recognize settlement at Smith talks

By Hugh Noves
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Dr Owen admitted for the
first time yesterday that in cer-
tain circumstances the British
Government would have to con-
sider recognizing a government
in Rhodesia resulting from the
"internal settlement" talks
now being held in Salisbury
between Mr Smith and
moderate African nationalist
leaders.

That was the clear interpre-
tation of the Foreign Secretary's
answer in the Commons to Mr
Thorpe, the former Liberal
leader. Mr Thorpe asked him
if he agreed that if faced with
"the brutal choice" between
those who wanted a solution
through force and those who
wanted to negotiate for a peace-
ful solution, the Government
would have no alternative but
to settle for the latter.

Dr Owen replied that he did
agree. "Although we should
pursue peace up to the last
moment, I envisage a situation
in which we must consider
recognizing a government which
had assumed power while there
was still a conflict. That is the
reality. We have to assess that
decision on the basis of how
many people would be in the
election and whether the Gov-
ernment was reasonably repre-
sentative."

He added that that would
be a difficult decision which he
hoped the House could avoid.
Earlier, Mr Thorpe had
indicated his disengagement
with the position taken up by
the Patriotic Front leaders in
the Malta talks, when he
suggested to the Foreign Sec-
retary that these had ended in
almost total stalemate. If the
Front was still demanding that
power should be handed over to
them before elections, he
urged Dr Owen to accept that
it would be "totally wrong" to
hand over from an existing
minority to a new one which
could be just as dangerous.

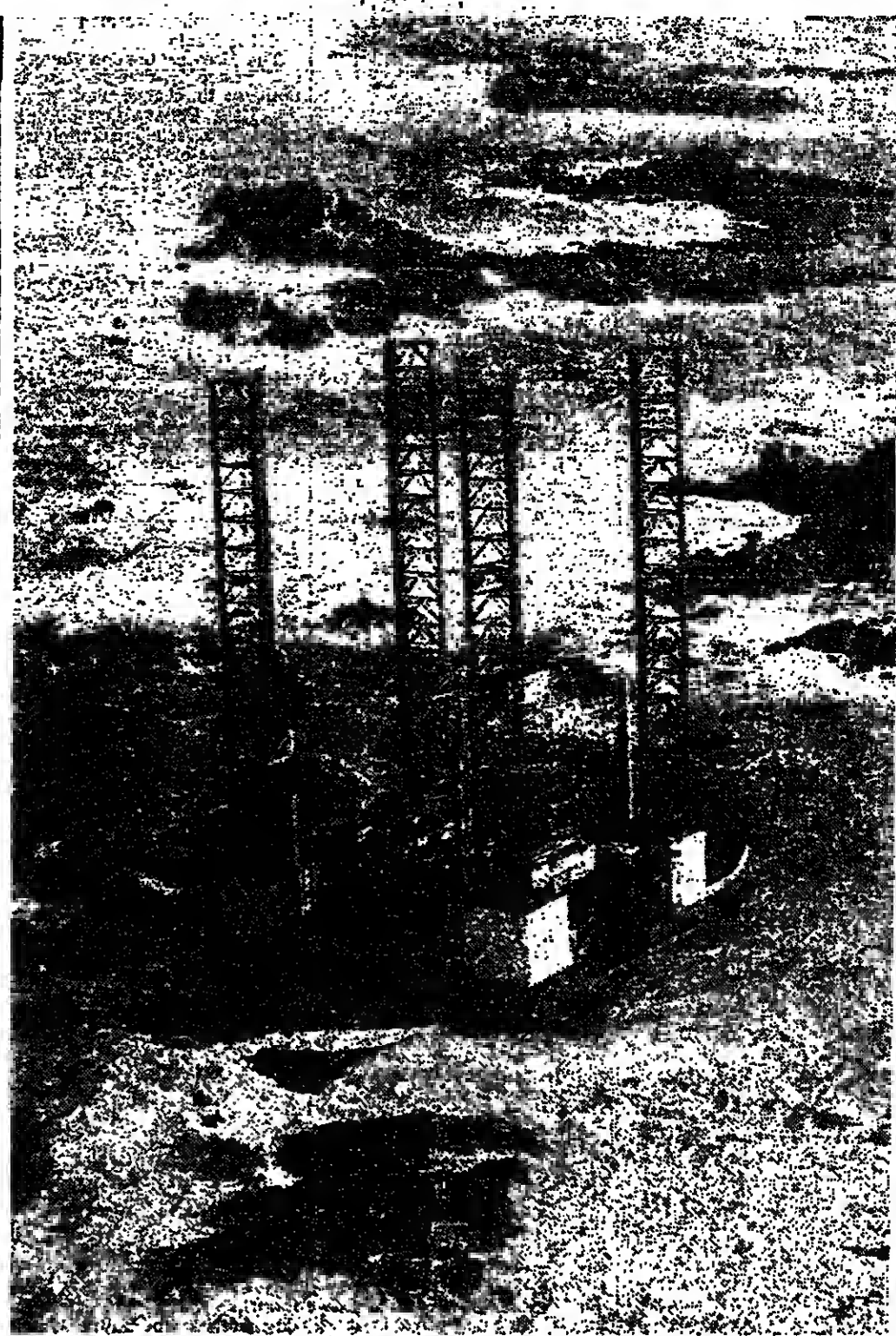
In reply to Mr John Davies,
the Conservative foreign affairs
spokesman, Dr Owen had earlier
denied that he was prepared to
cooperate only on the basis of
the Anglo-American proposal,
although he did feel that the
offer was the best solution. The
Foreign Secretary agreed that
the talks in Salisbury had made
progress and that the accep-
tance of one man, one vote by
Mr Smith was an important
change in the Rhodesian
leader's position.

Dr Owen had refused attempts
to make him condemn the Salis-
bury talks. He had continuously
urged the Patriotic Front to
talk to other nationalist leaders.
In a statement, which indicated
that the talks had made progress
during the talks in Valetta, the
Foreign Secretary repeated that
the British Government was
prepared to accept responsibility
for bringing the territory
of Rhodesia to independence
after elections and was com-
mitted to ensuring that those
elections should be manifestly
free and impartial.

If the Government was to
shoulder that responsibility, it
must have an assured and
supervised ceasefire. It was
clear that the United Nations
there must be the control
necessary to ensure main-
tenance of peace and good order
during the electoral process.
But, Dr Owen added, at present
the necessary ceasefire com-
promise was lacking. Tragically,
it seemed inevitable that
the armed struggle would con-
tinue for the time being. The
House, he said, would not wish
Britain to assume responsibility
for Rhodesia while the armed
struggle was continuing. That
was the central point.

Dr Owen disclosed another
disagreement with the Patriotic
Front when he said he could
not accept their statement
issued yesterday that the
guarantee of the irreversibility
of the transitional process should
be the Patriotic Front's libera-
tion forces.

Patriotic Front trims policy,
and Sithole formula, page 6
Parliamentary report, page 8
Leading article, page 15



Rig crew saved: The last four of the crew were
flown to safety by a Royal Navy helicopter from
the 39,000-ton Norwegian oil rig Orion (photo-
graphed above), aground in heavy seas on the
west coast of Guernsey yesterday.
Earlier, two of the crew had been taken off
by helicopter. The first call
in. They rescued 24 more but had to pull out
as the rig started spinning on the rocks. Two
men were taken off by breeches buoy but the
ropes were not taut enough for the last four.
The Seven Stones lighthouse, which dragged be-
neath on Wednesday night, is in no danger
and remains in position to protect shipping

from the Seven Stones reef, off the Scillies.
Rescuers searching for Mr Simon Whipple, aged
23, of Charlton Road, Wantage, Berkshire, found
his wallet, cheque book, a map and some food
in an unmanned youth hostel at Glen Affric,
Highland Region, last night. The searchers, from
RAF Leuchars, followed footprints in the snow.
Mr Whipple was last seen on Tuesday.
Donald Kelly, aged 15 months, was flown from
the remote Highlands to the Royal Northern
Infirmary at Inverness yesterday for treatment
for a heart condition after his father had driven
a tracked tractor 20 miles to a doctor. His family
home was becoming short of paraffin.
Scottish inquiry, page 3

Liberals welcome profit-sharing plans

By Bryan Appleyard
Financial Staff

Share incentive schemes to
encourage profit-sharing for
employees throughout British
industry were unveiled by the
Liberal Party, the Government
and the Inland Revenue yester-
day.

A consultative document out-
lining three methods of dis-
tributing company profits
among employees was issued
by the Inland Revenue. The
Liberals have made it clear
that they regard the move as
the greatest single victory to
emerge from the Lib-Lab pact.

Mr John Pardo, the Party's
spokesman on economic affairs,
said: "This is a great day for
liberals and a great day for
the British economy."

He made it clear that the
proposals are virtually certain
to be included in the next
Finance Bill. He expects com-
panies to begin special meet-
ings to vote on profit-sharing
plans in the autumn.

Although there are three
major proposals, all of which
may be included in the Bill,
Mr Pardo emphasized that only
the third was regarded as a real
breakthrough for the Liberals.
This scheme involves com-
panies making an allocation
each year for profit-sharing.
This money would be used to
buy shares in the company at

full value and these shares
would then be divided among
employees within the scheme.

They would be retained by a
trust and they would not be
liable for income tax. The max-
imum amount payable per em-
ployee would be £500 worth per
year.

Employees would not be
allowed to sell the shares with-
in five years, though there
would be exceptions in the case
of death or redundancy.

After five years the cash from
a sale would be divided into
two parts: half would be charge-
able to income tax. Any excess
of the sale price over acquisi-
tion price would be chargeable
to capital gains tax. Dividends
would be payable to the em-
ployee as they arose and would
be liable to the usual income
tax.

One of the other schemes in-
volves a cash bonus paid on the
condition that the employee
uses it to buy shares. These
also could not be sold less than
five years after acquisition and
the price would be chargeable
to income tax. Full market value
accordingly with an additional
employee discount of 10 per
cent.

Income tax would not be
charged on the discount or the
Continued on page 17, col 4

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phers Thomas
porter
workers yesterday
a productivity deal
marches that of the
warned the Electric-
ity that there are
aspects of protest
blackouts.
representing 90,000
ers said they "ex-
employees to partici-
pate in a productivity
scheme that at
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to substantial in-
basic rates.
Chapple, general
of the electricians'
chairman, said the
dating team said
offer made yester-
hered to the 10 per
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of negotiations.
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Feb 2—Two
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is sentenced yester-
month's imprisonment.
Dance, 31, a lorry
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are unable to pay,
authorities could
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Mr. Jenkins and Mr
they received £150
the lorry and were
of the smuggling
ster.

Tories want debate on black list of firms

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

In a last-minute change of
tactics, shadow ministers de-
cided to oppose a bill to be
Government in a Commons de-
bate next week on the operation
of the so-called "black list" of
companies.

Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the
Opposition, and her colleagues
therefore decided to be
vulnerable over its policy of
withholding grants to com-
panies that have broken the 10
per cent guideline on wage in-
creases.

The argument has been
brought to the forefront of the
parliamentary battle because of
the threatened action of the
Department of Trade against
Sun Alliance and London
Insurance.

Economic ministers have de-
cided to impose sanctions on
the company because they
believe its pay settlement
breaches government policy.
The Department of Trade is
expected within the next few
days to order the insurance
group to cut its premiums.

After exchanges in the Com-
mons yesterday involving Mrs
Thatcher and the Prime Min-
ister the Conservative leader
and her colleagues met last
night and decided to postpone
their planned attack on the
Government's economic strategy
on Tuesday and aim at a point
where they believe ministers to
be most immediately vulner-
able.

They argue that while the
Government has every legal
entitlement to withhold state
finance from any company, the
ministers' action is being taken
without parliamentary refer-

ence. Indeed, ministers have for
some months stonewalled chal-
lenges that the Government is
imposing sanctions and operat-
ing a black list.

The latest figures show that
about nineteen companies ac-
tually involved, nine or 10 of them
suffering from the withdrawal
of government aid because they
are deemed to have broken the
new policy.

Shadow ministers, however,
have refrained from tabling
their own motion of criticism
for tactical reasons. A defeat
on their motion would imply
parliamentary approval of gov-
ernment actions, so they have
resorted to a debate on the
adjournment of the House,
which the Government cannot
amend.

But Labour's left wing has
come to their assistance, be-
cause the Shadow Cabinet has
decided to make use of an
early day motion the left
wing tabled headed: "The mis-
use of government discretion-
ary powers." It states: "That
this House condemns the use by
the Government of economic
sanctions against those firms
and workers who have nego-
tiated pay settlements above the
10 per cent guidelines."

Twenty-seven Labour left-
wingers signed the motion and
the Opposition is no-doubt
hoping to have their support in
the division lobbies after the
debate on Tuesday night.

Economic ministers are to
make a sample survey of firms
with approved self-financing
productivity deals to see
whether there has been any
slippage in the agreements.
Parliamentary report, page 8

Poison warning on oranges from Spain

People eating Spanish oranges have
been warned by the Health Department
to check them for mercury poisoning.
A Palestinian terrorist organisation
claimed responsibility for putting
mercury into Israeli oranges. Later it
was reported that Spanish oranges were
also affected. The Health Department
advised people to peel an orange, divide
it into segments and look for silver-
grey droplets in the flesh before eating it.
Page 6

£20m Stern debt suit

A bankruptcy petition claiming £20m,
believed to be the largest ever involving
a single creditor, has been presented to
Mr William Stern, whose property
empire crashed four years ago with
debts of about £170m. The petition is
from merchant bankers Keyser Ullmann
and the hearing has been fixed for
April. Page 17

School places ban

Local education authorities will be
unable to pay for places at independent
secondary schools in the autumn for
at least a thousand bright children now at
state primary schools. The Government
will not give its approval for the
expenditure. Page 4

Ombudsman seeks direct access

The Parliamentary Commissioner for
Administration (the Ombudsman)
suggested that the public should be
allowed to put complaints to him
directly instead of having to make
the approach through an MP. He would
then tell the MP he was prepared to
start an investigation. Page 3

No Packer appeal

There will be no appeal against the
verdict in the Packer case, the Inter-
national Cricket Conference and the
Test and County Cricket Board decided
after their two-day meeting. The future
of Kerry Packer's players was left in
the hands of individual countries and
counties. Page 9

Restaurant car fines

British Transport Hotels, a subsidiary
of British Rail, was fined £2,000 at
Cardiff after admitting 20 charges
relating to the cleanliness of three
restaurant cars. Mr Thomas Armstrong,
chairman of the bench, said: "We think
there was a very marked lack of
supervision." Page 3

More mobility grants

Proposed regulation changes will mean
that many parents of handicapped
children who had been refused mobility
allowances will now get them. They
include parents of Down's syndrome
sufferers. Page 2

Mr Sadat begins US visit today

President Sadat arrives in Washington
today for talks with President Carter
which could determine whether the
peace initiative with Israel ends in
success or failure. But there are no
high hopes in Cairo. Menzies, the
anti-Sadat summit of Arab leaders
opened in Algiers yesterday. Colonel
Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, was not
present. Page 5

Refuelling in space

Two Soviet cosmonauts chalked up a
space first by successfully refuelling in
outer space the engine of their
Salyut 6 space laboratory. They had
been preparing for the transfer of the
rocket fuels for the past 12 days. The
refuelling gives Salyut 6 a new lease of
life as it could be fired into an even
deeper orbit. Page 5

Petrol shortage: Gargages that put up
prices during the tanker drivers' over-
time ban may have supplies cut off
the union says. Page 2

PAYE threatened: Because of many tax
changes the PAYE system was near
collapse last year, the Inland Revenue
Commissioners say. Page 18

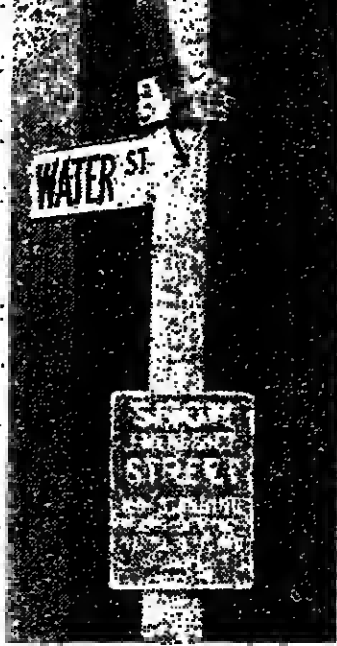
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In 'The Times' tomorrow

Another demonstration
against racism is planned
in Wolverhampton to-
morrow. In a special report
in *The Times* tomorrow,
Robert Parker reports on the
resentment of the immigrant
communities and on alleged
completeness.

There is also a report on
the history of Britain's secret
intelligence service; the
monthly paperback page,
and interviews with Jack
Nicholson, the Hollywood
actor, Edward de Bono, the
lateral thinker, and Catherine
Gavin, the author.

Mr James Ellis, the senior
departmental architect, who
designed the centre, said that
far from comparing with Lord
Burlington and Reni, he had
tried to make his building as
inconspicuous as possible. Lady
Birk is now going to consult
the Historic Buildings Council
and other interested parties.



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HOME NEWS

Ombudsman proposes more direct line access from public

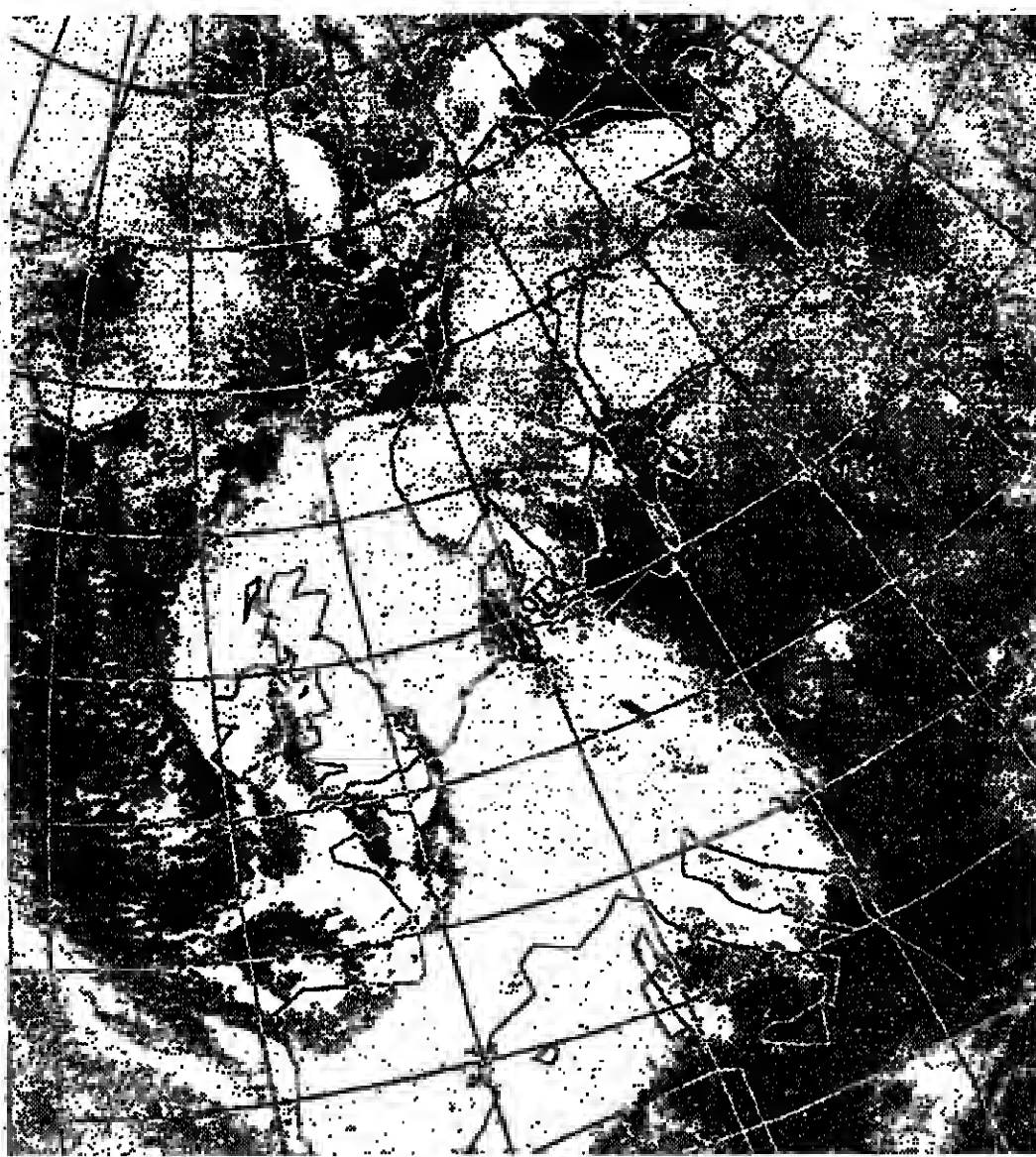
David Nicholson-Lord, the new Ombudsman, has proposed a more direct public line of access to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. Sir David, who is one of the few changes in the new ombudsman's office, is set to publish his annual report for 1977, which covers his first full year of office. He took over from Sir Morris as well as marking the anniversary of the Act of 1967 which created the Ombudsman. In his annual report, Sir David describes the office as "a very much more direct line of access to the public than the old ombudsman's office". He says that the office has received 901 complaints in 1977, a 10 per cent increase on 1976. He also says that the office has received 863 inquiries from the public. All the latter have been returned. Sir David says that the office has received 863 inquiries from the public. All the latter have been returned. Sir David says that the office has received 863 inquiries from the public. All the latter have been returned.

Irish drive against broadcast 'pirates'

From Christopher Walker, Dublin. The Fianna Fail Government has become embroiled in a potentially damaging dispute with pirate radio operators similar to that faced by the British authorities in the late 1960s. Radio listeners in Dublin have two regular alternatives to the often ponderous output of Radio Telefís Éireann, the state broadcasting organization, whose staff are in frequent conflict with the Government over alleged interference in programming. Three other pirate stations make intermittent broadcasts, and an illegal Gaelic-language station is planned by an organization with republican sympathies. During the past two weeks, police raids have been launched against the two main offenders, Radio Dublin and its brasher competitor, Alternative Radio Dublin. Although equipment valued at £10,000 was seized, neither station was prevented from transmitting its lucrative diet of pop music and advertisements. There have been growing indications of the pirates' popularity, including a large street demonstration. Mr John Kelly, Attorney General in the former coalition Government, has challenged the constitutional validity of RTE's monopoly, and the owners of both Dublin pirate stations plan to test in the courts the Government's refusal to grant them licences. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs has given several reasons for its determination to prohibit the pirate broadcasts. They range from the Irish Republic's international obligations to an allegation that the programmes are interfering with emergency services, and even cutting into private telephone conversations. The Government's campaign has been blunted by a loophole in the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1926, the only piece of legislation available to the police. During a prosecution last year, the court ruled that because seized equipment could be used for amplification as well as transmitting there was reasonable doubt whether it was illegal. No attempt has yet been made by the Cabinet to block the loophole, but action is threatened in the next few months.

Scottish authorities to study effectiveness of services in aftermath of Highland blizzards

From Ronald Faux, Inverness. How the blizzard that swept the north of Scotland last week-end came to cause such widespread and severe dislocation is to be investigated by the police, local authorities, and military, who are co-ordinating the rescue operation. Four people died, communications were wrecked, hundreds of motorists stranded and many villages isolated as a result of the snowstorm. The investigation will consider how to improve the warning system and what measures could be taken to prevent motorists from being stranded at such notoriously vulnerable points as the Slachd summit on the A9 south of Inverness, from where some 59 travellers were rescued by air and at the Ords of Caidness, north of the city where the same road disappeared into a snowdrift 20ft deep and almost two miles long. Supt Ian Lovett, of the Northern Constabulary said yesterday that ways of improving procedures would be studied but he believed the system was working well in spite of enormous pressure. The incident log on his desk had grown into a thick volume, detailing the hundreds of helicopter flights by royal service crews on rescue missions and patrols of the Highland areas swept by the snowstorm. The priority has turned to providing food for sheep and cattle stranded and starving in the northern hills and to reconnecting isolated communities with the outside world. The blizzard arrived without warning. A photograph taken from a weather satellite showed an intense depression centred on the north of Scotland and seeding a curving trail of storm clouds into the southern tip of Norway and over the North Sea into Germany and France. The meteorologists were alerted, but no one could say how long the depression would remain in one place, or what its precise effects would be. The wind strengthened, the temperature dropped, and the heavy rain of Saturday morning turned to snow. Soon afterwards the Highlands were struck by the severest weather in living memory. The first alarm call received by the Northern Constabulary was at 7.20 on Saturday when a bus with a sick woman on board became stuck in snow at Slachd. A helicopter was called in. After that there were many calls to police headquarters, and an emergency centre was set up to decide priorities. Helicopters flew in to help from as far away as Hampshire. In the aftermath of the storm, many stories, tragic, heroic and hilarious, have emerged. Mr William Sutherland's drive down the A9 into a deep snowdrift and his survival for nearly eighty hours entombed in the snow will be long remembered. So will the couple who were composing their last will and testament after sitting for 30 hours in their buried car, and who were rescued by a punk rock group. The wedding party trapped in a hotel south of Inverness since last Saturday expect to be freed today after the longest nuptials anyone there can remember. The rescue operation will continue for some days yet. Yesterday I flew in an RAF helicopter to villages in north-west Scotland still cut off and without electric power. The trial of the blizzard was still clear, with telegraph poles strewn around the moors like match-



Weather picture: The cloud formation associated with the intense depression that brought severe weather to Scotland is seen in this photograph transmitted by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration weather satellite at an altitude of 900 miles and received by Dundee University at 08.59hrs on Saturday, January 28. Equipment developed in the university's department of electrical engineering provides the only high-resolution weather-satellite, facsimile images available in Britain, with an anatomically superimposed and fully corrected geographical grid, which enables meteorologists to see the exact location of the clouds. Information gathered by the university is supplied to a commercial weather service for North Sea oil rigs.

sticks, and power lines drooping forlornly to the ground. At Lochmore, a few miles south of Cape Wrath, villagers greeted the aircraft cheerfully. There was nothing they were short of, we were told. Plenty of food had been cut, there was a good supply of paraffin for lighting, but they would welcome more detailed news bulletins on the radio saying what progress the snow ploughs had made. One woman told me: "The worst problem is the deep freeze. Without power, the contents soon start to defrost, and in a place like this we have to live from the deep freeze. I might lose over £150 of food unless the power comes back soon." Some frozen food was being stored in a refrigerated lorry trapped by the blizzards, but when it ran out of fuel, there would be no electricity to operate the pumps at the local filling station. The helicopter crew unloaded two generators for the local telephone exchange and left Lochmore with its small power crisis. After one quick halt at a frozen crossroads to pick up a girl of 15 months bound for hospital, we were airborne again, clattering over the snow-buried roads. Highlanders are used to being cut off by winter but no one can remember one as bad as this. Perhaps the only people who have positively enjoyed the crisis are the children of Lochinver. When the power failed, the local grocer decided to empty his refrigerator before the contents started to melt. Free ice cream, even in the bitterest winter, tastes like none other.

Dirt in rail restaurant cars leads to £2,000 fines

British Transport Hotels, a subsidiary of British Rail, was fined £2,000 by Carlisle magistrates yesterday after admitting 20 charges relating to cleanliness of three restaurant cars. It was fined the maximum of £100 on each charge and ordered to pay £50 costs. Mr Thomas Armstrong, chairman, said he was imposing the maximum fine because of the seriousness of the offences. "We think there was a very marked lack of supervision to allow things to get to this stage." No evidence was offered on 38 other charges, and not guilty pleas entered by Mr Christopher Kemp for the company, were accepted and the magistrates found it not guilty on those charges. The prosecution said the three train restaurant cars were examined by health inspectors at Carlisle station in August and September last year. Generally they were not clean. In particular, floors were greasy and dirty and some items of equipment, such as shelves, ovens, pans and a table, were not clean. A hand basin for use by staff was full of miscellaneous debris, rubbish and broken glass. The only receptacle for rubbish was an absorbent paper sack. Mr Kemp said the cars were more than 20 years old and had been extended beyond their planned life. One of two cars inspected on the day they were examined. Only a buffet service was being provided. The company agreed that the complaints were justified but said the public had not complained. He added: "Things can go wrong if for some reason staff do not carry out domestic and housekeeping type of cleaning. We recognize we have not set a high standard in this field. These instances are an example of a falling-off from that standard and BTH are taking steps to ensure that this does not recur." "This is a matter of great concern to us because we want to give every assurance to the public that we are attending to these matters and we were already attending to them and had decided some time ago to take steps to deal with them." He said there would be an intensification of the heavy and deep cleaning programmes carried out while cars were in sidings. There would also be a continuation of replacement and refurbishment of cars and a reinforcement of staff supervision. British Transport Hotels pleaded guilty to charges that included "carrying on a food business in a restaurant car not kept clean, in good repair and condition, and not keeping kitchen utensils clean. It also admitted not having adequate soap, nail brushes, and clean towels.

Radio chain will guide oil platform

aid project damaged

The platform has a surveyor's cabin from which information is passed to a towmaster's cabin for instructing tugs which way to pull. Provision of radio frequencies for all forms of communication from offshore installations around the British coast has proved difficult. For this operation transmissions on radio frequencies that are reserved for the Ministry of Defence, but not in use, will be permitted.

Navigation system has been developed by Wimpol, a joint company of Wimpey Laboratories and Polytechnic Marine. The Ninian field, operated by the Chevron group, is the third largest discovery in the North Sea. To reach the deep water site with such immense object, a chain of radio beacons will be placed on several islands and existing oil rigs to form the basis of an electronic navigation grid.

Industries paying less than legal wage

A Labour Staff survey of a quarter of catering, and hairdressing shops paid illegally low wages 7, a Low Pay Unit report, had today, states. The report says that, in spite of Government's widely used attitude to low underpayment in industry, it is deep rooted and inent. The union calls on the Government to add another 50 to its underpaid force. Wages inspectors, who set the minimum rates set councils. In 1977, the report says, 1 per cent of employers in ng, hairdressing and ng industries were paying at some workers below un rates. The retail drapery industry, 10 per cent of employers are ted to have underpaid workers. In retail food, 300,000 workers, 34.2 at were underpaying.

Woman doctor with knife

A woman doctor was commended at Central Criminal Court for her bravery in a former Broadmoor described as a paranoid threat, who attacked her as with a breadknife. Mrs Gilbert Commander, 3, was sent back to Broadmoor after the jury had decided, preliminary hearing under Mental Procedure Insanity Act 1964, that he was suffering a disability that made fit to be tried. The doctor, Helen Toar, aged 41, been working in a ward caring Cross Hospital, 1, with Dr Edward Halls, 56, a consultant, on ber 7 last year when Mr under burst in, Mr C. J. for the prosecution said, Commander had the defu belief that all doctors ying to get at him or kill d be jumped forward, g Dr Halls in the ees kept on to Mr Com's back, pulling him away r wounded colleague and n to him until he broke d fled. Commander was stopped street by Mr Patrick r, a hospital porter, who d covering his hands, Justice Theodor awarded r and Mr Gorman each a token reward.

Old suspicions revived as White Paper foresees Stansted's capacity quadrupling to four million

Anti-airport veterans sharpen their knives

From Alan Hamilton, Stansted

At 4 pm yesterday the spacious departure hall at Stansted airport, Essex, was occupied by only five people, none of whom was going farther than Saffron Walden. The only intrusive noise was a cry of dismay from the Essex countryside, accompanied by the rustle of sharpening knives. This week's White Paper on future airport expansion has generated alarm in the Stansted area, populated by old warriors from the battle of the Roskill commission inquiry on the third London airport, and has drawn accusations that the Government is employing hack-dog tactics to make Stansted the third airport after all. The White Paper proposes an expansion of Stansted's traffic to four million passengers a year by 1990. Present facilities are designed to handle a million passengers annually, but no more than 300,000 a year use it. After local residents won their fight against the Roskill commission's plans for expansion, the area has been fairly peaceful for some years. Many speak well of the airport, pointing out that the number of training flights, the most troublesome sort to those on the ground, have been reduced recently, although they still account for nearly half the annual total of 28,000 aircraft movements. But now the campaigners are alert again, determined that all their past fights shall not have been in vain. Mr George Askew, chairman of Uttlesford District Council, said: "We are still trying to make sense of the White Paper; we suspect that the figure of four million passengers by 1990 might be nearer 11 million. "I think the population would accept a limit of four million; it would bring a measure of prosperity and employment. But they would certainly not tolerate any more." Some of the objections raised at the time of Roskill are now invalid. There is no plan to scoop up hundreds of acres of farmland for building, although there is still a threat to the environment. Mr John Lukies, chairman of the North West Essex and East Hertfordshire Preservation Association and an old campaigner from Roskill days, described the area as the most unspoiled stretch of rural land remaining within reach of London and one of the finest patches in the country for wheat and barley. "There have been three public attempts to prove Stansted as the right place for

major expansion and they have all failed," he said. "The greatest experts in the land have said it is not suitable. Mr Lukies voiced deep concern at the open-ended nature of the White Paper's proposals beyond 1990. "But we are far too old birds to be caught by that sort of chaff. It is a ploy we have always been expecting. His association, Mr Lukies said, was all in favour of an airport at Stansted to provide jobs, but on a sensible scale. Mrs Pam Croome lives in the picture-postcard village of Thaxted, in the shadow of its splendid fourteenth-century church, one of the largest in Essex, and seven miles from the runway, directly in the flight path. "I think a lot of us who campaigned at the time of Roskill will feel the steam has gone out of us now; after all, we are 10 years older. But it would be a great tragedy if all the good work done then was undone now. We should feel the great loss of one of the last unspoiled rural areas in the South-east." She and many other residents are highly suspicious of the White Paper. They stress that air traffic will grow considerably towards the end of the century, but they fear that Stansted will become the expansion site.

Quick decision by Government urged

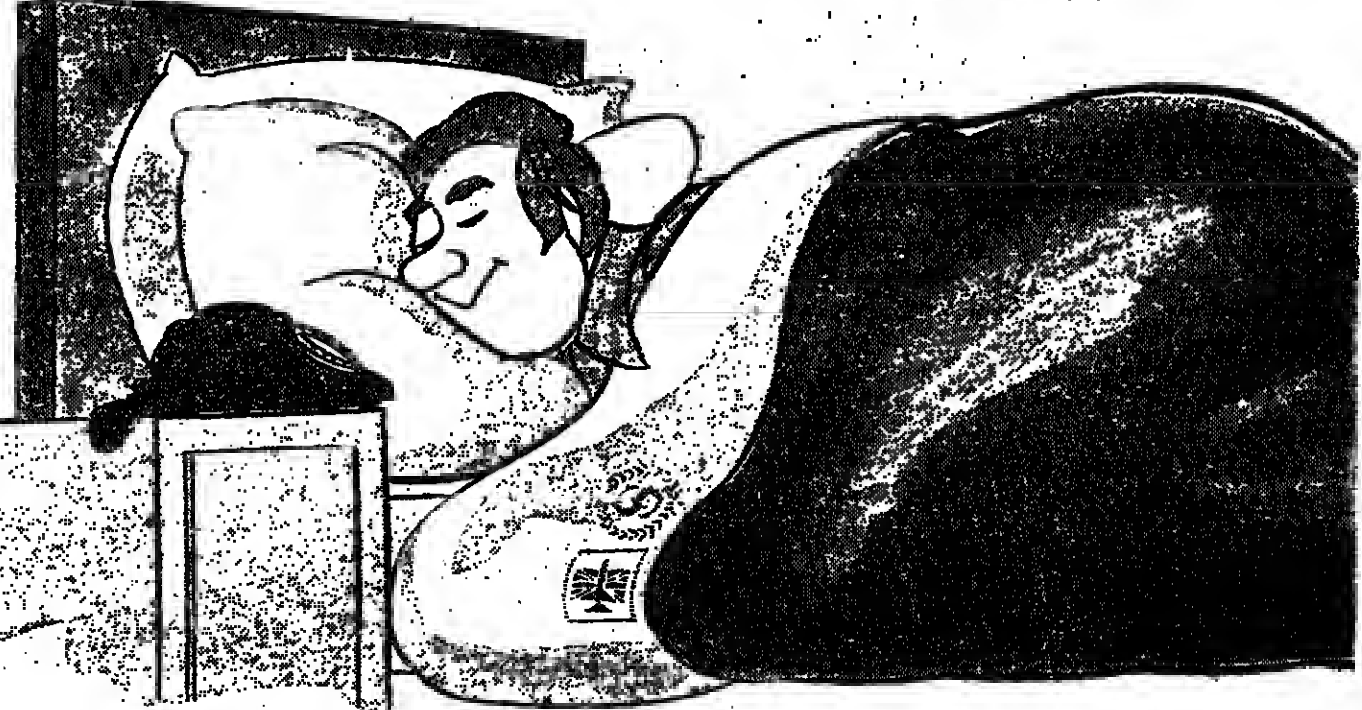
By Arthur Reed

With the time needed to develop a new airport varying from eight to 12 years, decisions to resolve aviation needs in the South-east in the late 1980s and 1990s should not be delayed, Mr Norman Payne, chairman of the British Airports Authority, said yesterday. He was commenting on the White Paper on airport policy, published on Wednesday, which posed three possible solutions to the lack of airport capacity in the South-east after 1990. They were: a big expansion of Stansted; the development of a present military airfield; or the construction of a new airport. The airports authority had no particular preference for any of these types, Mr Payne said. But he pointed out that it would take eight years to develop Stansted, 10 to develop a military airfield, and 12 to build a new airport. He suggested the establish-

ment of a permanent policy advisory council to make recommendations to the Government on important airport developments. It would include representatives of local authorities, consumer organizations and the airlines, among others. British Caledonian Airways welcomed the White Paper and said the planned growth of Gatwick airport would have little adverse effect on the local community. The greatest growth would occur after the mid-1980s, when most of the present fleets of airlines would have been replaced with advanced-technology aircraft, which would be quieter and cleaner. Scottish plans: The Civil Aviation Authority is to improve terminal facilities at Inverness and Kirkwall airfields and has appointed Sir Frederick Snow and Partners to work out cost and programme details (the Press Association reports).

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Government squeeze on council places in independent schools

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

At least a thousand bright children at state primary schools will not be able to go to independent secondary schools in the autumn as planned. The Government has refused to allow local authorities to pay the fees for those children on the ground that such arrangements would not be consistent with its policy for ending selection.

The Government took powers under the Education Act, 1976, to control arrangements made by local authorities in the independent sector. Last year 5,783 new places were taken up by authorities in independent and former direct-grant schools.

The total number of state-supported pupils in the independent sector is not known, but a survey of its members by the Independent Schools Information Service shows that local authorities last year were paying for 13,668 places in independent schools and 29,490 in former direct-grant schools, making a total of 43,158.

The total amount paid out by authorities in private school fees last year was about £35m, of which £25m was for pupils at former direct-grant schools, most of whom entered the schools while they were still part of the state sector. Their number and cost is therefore expected to fall progressively.

The Government is nevertheless anxious to reduce public spending on private schooling. Last July it sent out a circular to the 95 local education authorities in England telling them that from next September they would be authorized to give support to new pupils attending non-maintained schools only if they could show that there was an absolute shortage of places in maintained or denominational schools; or where pupils were assessed "on grounds unrelated to ability or aptitude" as being in need of boarding education; or, in the case of individual pupils, if they showed an exceptional gift for music, including singing or dancing.

'No overall plan for country transport'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Government has no vast design of amalgamation for passenger transport services in country areas, Mr Horam, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, told the Commons standing committee considering the Transport Bill yesterday.

Small companies played a valuable role in operating country buses, and the small

operator might be a better performer than a large organization he said.

He was defending the retention of a subsection of clause 1 of the Bill which, he said, gave county councils powers to persuade private operators to amalgamate or merge if that seemed sensible. A similar power under the Local Government Act, 1972, had been used only once, at Telford New Town. Salop,

Woman gave young son paraquat 'as diversion'

From Our Correspondent Edinburgh

A mother gave her son, aged seven, a teaspoonful of Paraquat, a weedkiller, in an attempt to divert her husband's attention from her extravagant spending and heavy debts, it was alleged at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

Margaret Wyse, aged 26, pleaded guilty to giving her eldest son, David, the substance in their home at Knowehead Road, Crossford, five on October 15. Allegations that she had attempted to murder the boy were withdrawn by the crown.

She also admitted making false statements to the police that her husband had been broken into and £75 cash and a cheque book stolen and furniture and clothing maliciously damaged. She further admitted defrauding the Zurich Insurance Company by stating that her husband had been broken into and receiving £182 compensation.

Sentence was deferred on Mrs Wyse after psychiatrists and Lord Stott, the judge, had failed to agree on how her case should be handled. She will appear in the High Court again next Thursday.

Mr Brian Gill, for the prosecution, told the court that in March last year Mrs Wyse pretended that her husband had been broken into. She kept making excuses not to show her husband their joint bank statement.

When her husband eventually threatened to go to the bank to find out their true financial position she gave the child the weedkiller. He was taken to hospital and recovered. Mrs Wyse had debts of about £1,600, he added.

Mrs Wyse had told the police: "I suppose I shall get a strait jacket for this. I did not really intend to murder him. I love my boys very much. They are my life."

The group, chaired by Mr Alex Lyon, MP, a former Home Office minister, said that almost all of the commitments were undertaken by Conservative governments and to withdraw them would be a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights, which the Conservatives were pledged to introduce in England as a Bill of Rights.

Mr Lyon said it was right that facts about immigration

Man in the news: Mr Alan Evans, exponent of positive discrimination 'Jobs for blacks' plan meets abuse and praise

By Annabel Ferriman

A stream of abusive letters has been flowing into Camden Town Hall, north London, since the council's new policy of positive discrimination in favour of coloured people was publicized last week.

Most of them have been addressed to Mr Alan Evans, chairman of the council's staff and management services committee, who first put forward the new policy. The letters have suggested variously that he should resign, go back to Wales or enter a mental home.

One characteristic example was a pencilled note, signed NF, which said: "Dirty wog-lover. Creep. You will get yours, watch out you know what will happen to you and your home."

The switchboard at the National Union of Teachers, where Mr Evans is head of the education department, was jammed all Friday afternoon, and the switchboard operators were subjected to crude sexual insults.

Mr Evans, aged 38, who is prospective parliamentary Labour candidate for Pembroke, was at first surprised and depressed; but he is now pleased that the issue is out in the open and feels strengthened by the support he has had.

He was particularly encouraged by some of the speeches in favour of Camden's policy at the Labour Party's local government conference at the weekend.

It is the first time he has been at the centre of such a controversy, although he sees similarities between his present campaign and the battle he fought against the raising of overseas student fees when he was vice-president of

the National Union of Students in 1966. But the response then was much less strident, he says.

Mr Evans, the son of a Welsh steelworker, was elected vice-president of the NUS when he was reading economics at the London School of Economics. After a period teaching in Nottingham, he became personal assistant to Sir Ronald Gould, general secretary of the teachers' union, from where he rose to his present position as head of the education department.

It was as chairman of Camden's staff and management services committee, however, that he was catapulted into the public eye last week. That committee proposed a more positive policy of non-discrimination towards racial minorities and Mr Evans spoke eloquently in favour of the policy at the last council meeting, when it was adopted.



Mr Evans: Wants issue in the open.

Labour challenge to Tory leader on race pledges

By Craig Seton

The Labour Party Race Relations Action Group has asked Mrs Thatcher to say which of the present commitments to immigrants she will "rat on".

The group, chaired by Mr Alex Lyon, MP, a former Home Office minister, said that almost all of the commitments were undertaken by Conservative governments and to withdraw them would be a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights, which the Conservatives were pledged to introduce in England as a Bill of Rights.

Mr Lyon said it was right that facts about immigration

should be discussed, but the Conservative leader should have made sure of the facts before speaking on such a sensitive issue. The Prime Minister and Home Secretary were to be congratulated for standing firm against "such ill-informed bigotry".

Referring to Mrs Thatcher's comment that there were likely to be four million people of the New Commonwealth and Pakistan in Britain by the end of the century, Mr Lyon said the Franks committee prediction that the present population might double by the end of the century was likely to prove an exaggeration. He also pointed out that a third of new immigrants were white.

He was influenced by his experience as chairman of the council's appointments committee. That committee, which was responsible for all appointments at over 57,000 a year, had appointed only one member of a minority group to a senior post in two and a half years, he said.

Mr Evans has described the policy as one of positive discrimination in favour of blacks and minority groups but denies that it will discriminate against whites. Enlarging on the policy, he said the main thrust would be the removal of all the negative and inhibiting factors which had prevented members of minority groups from securing jobs.

"By our policies of advertising in minority-group newspapers, changing the wording of our advertisements and changing our interviewing procedure, we want to tell the minority community that we do not discriminate, and encourage them to apply," he said.

"Secondly, we want to tell them that if they do secure a job with us, we shall actively support them with training and everything possible to get them up to a standard of proficiency which will enable them to have an equal opportunity of securing promotion."

Only in very limited circumstances would the council discriminate in favour of coloured applicants. That would be when two people of equal ability applied, when one was a member of a minority group and when the council was deficient in staff from that group.

The aim was to increase opportunities for minorities and to provide a better service for Camden's citizens, many of whom were coloured and would be helped by having

someone of their own language and culture to consult.

That was why the council was particularly keen to recruit members of minority groups as estate managers, librarians, interviewers and housing liaison officers, Mr Evans said.

He thought the policy was legal under section 38 of the Race Relations Act, 1976, which stated that employers could encourage members of a racial minority to take up employment with them.

"If the Act does not allow the full promotion of equal opportunities for minority groups, it must be challenged in the courts or Parliament must provide an amendment to it," he said.

Mr Evans may be able to propose the amendment in Parliament. The Conservative majority in its adoptive constituency is only 772. A swing of half a per cent would make it his.

He packs his three jobs, as prospective parliamentary candidate, Camden councillor and union official, into an extremely tight timetable. He meets Camden officials between 8 am and 9 am, at lunchtime and in the early evenings, attends committee meetings one or two evenings a week, and visits his constituency two weekends in three.

He thinks that race is likely to be important at the next election and hopes that the Labour Party will not dodge the issue.

"We should be prepared to use our resources an imagination to promote this policy until there can be no doubt that every individual is afforded the dignity that stems from equal rights for all," he says.

Community officer tells of role in Front ban

By A Staff Reporter

Mr Eric Jay, community relations officer for the London Borough of Camden, confirmed yesterday that he had taken action to prevent the Nation Front from meeting in a public house at Chalk Farm and said he was pleased with the result.

It was to have taken place on Monday night. But Mr Jay approached the pub, the brewing company concerned, and sent a distributor to speak to the licensee who cancelled permission for the meeting. A meeting of the Socialist Party of Great Britain was also cancelled.

Mr Edward Grant, an official of the Socialist Party of Great Britain, said yesterday that he regarded freedom of speech as being indivisible, and that the Nation Front had a right to like other parties. Although its meeting at The Enterprise had been banned, the Front held it elsewhere.

Mr Jay is not a Camden council official, although he is a committee for community relations receives a council grant. He said his approach to Camden was in line with council policy, which is to refuse to lease premises to organizations that incite racial hatred.

"The Nation Front is the one party that openly advocates racial hatred. It is reasonable to put obstacles in the way of their propagating their views."

Courage denied that the licensee of The Enterprise had been asked to cancel the Front meeting. It said it left decisions to its licensee. It has no general policy against Front meetings as such.

Diary, page 1

Number plate 'read at 7 yards'

After Miss Margaretta Schurz, aged 67, of East Road Burnt Oak, London, was killed by a van driven by Joseph Gargiulo, aged 57, of Croydon Road, Beddington, Surrey, on September 6, a police officer asked him to read a car's inde plate, a police officer said a Hornsey Coroners Court, London, yesterday.

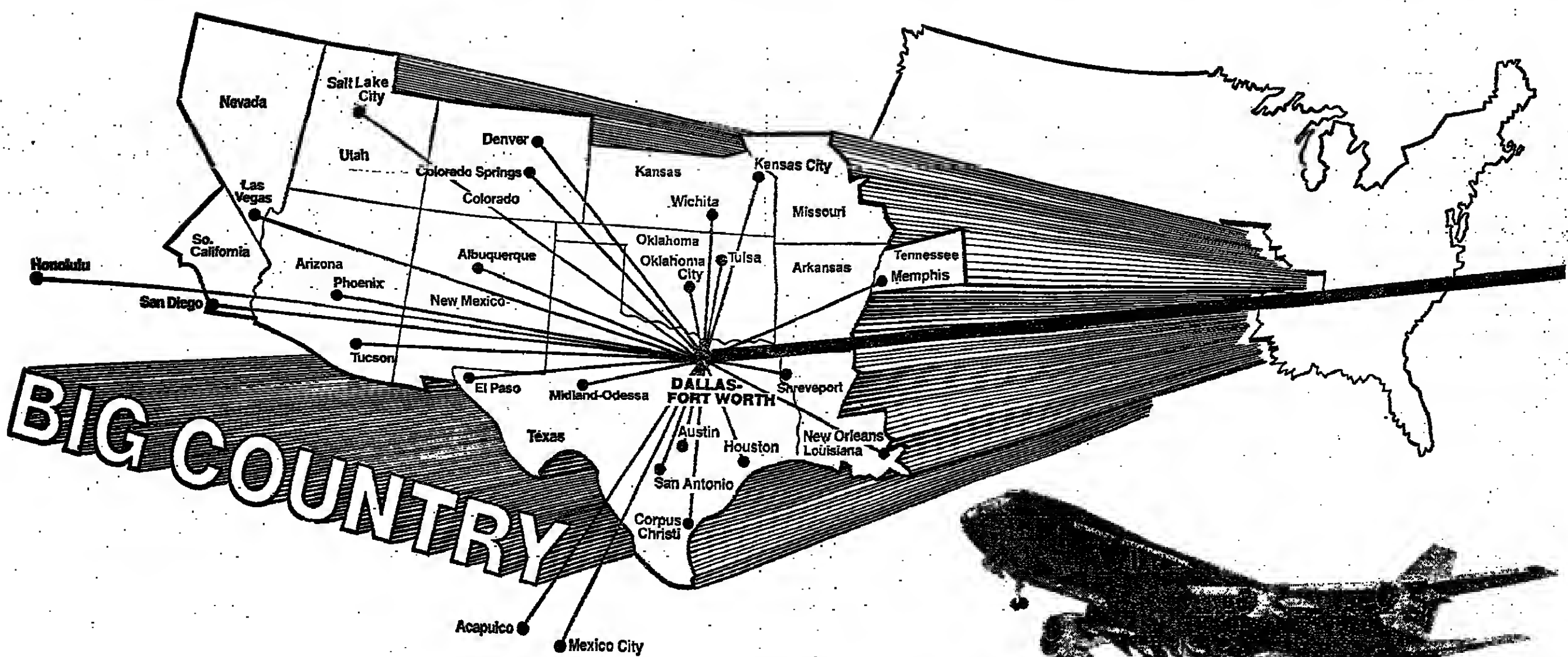
With his glasses he tried to read the number and did so a seven yards. "I remember Pete Hanson said, 'We started him off 25 yards away and he made several attempts.' Mr Gargiulo might be prosecuted for dangerous driving and making false declaration, he said. Verdict of accidental death was recorded.

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COMMUNIST EUROPE

Berlinguer party sees Moscow's political paralysis' as helping Eurocommunists attain autonomy

By Peter Nichols

Mr. Enrico Berlinguer, leader of the Italian Communist Party, has said that the Soviet Union's political paralysis is helping Eurocommunists attain autonomy.

The chances of success for a task of this kind are clearly slim if the Soviet Union is mired in its own household. The communist view here, however, is that Moscow's malaise goes much deeper than President Brezhnev's ill health. The Russians themselves are seen no longer to believe in their system. They are not in an offensive phase; they are in a defensive position.

Despite censorship, East Europe is fully aware of the aims of Western communist parties. Communists here say they are surprised by this. Broadcasts from the West reveal what is published in L'Unità, the Italian party's official newspaper.

This penetration is effective because it combines with local problems in East Europe. The economic and social problems facing the Polish Government are one instance, and Mr. Gierk, the Polish leader, is said privately to have expressed his agreement with the renege of Eurocommunism.

It is not, though, here that East European countries can aspire to the foreseeable future to a plurality of political parties. However, the role of the Roman Catholic Church is offering a certain degree of pluralism. It has a traditionally strong influence in Poland and is increasing its contribution in Hungary, now the most open of all the East European countries.

In Poland there is already cultural plurality: abstract art is as much in evidence as socialist realism and once there is cultural plurality it is difficult to hold back plurality in other fields.

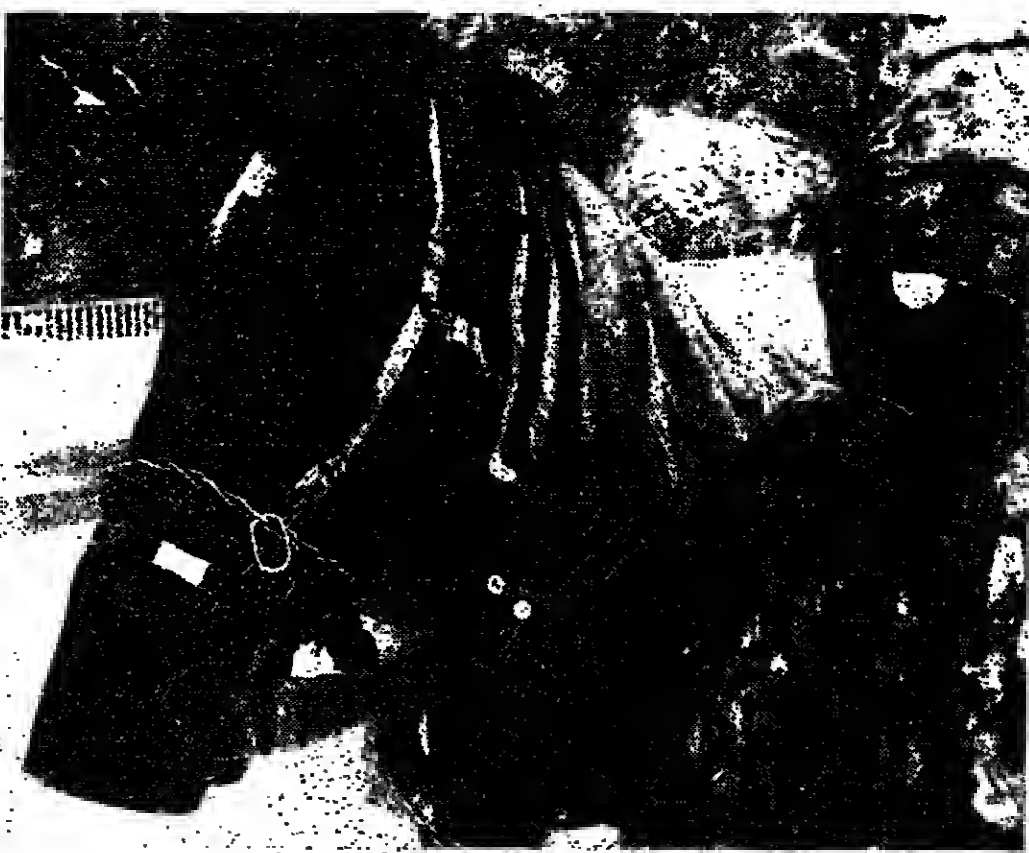
Little is known about the situation in Czechoslovakia but Communists here say a political clash appears to be developing: after 10 years of complete stonewall, there are signs of demands for political change.

Understandably, these sources maintain that the situation in East Europe would be favourably influenced by the entry of the communists into government in Italy.

These views come, obviously enough, from convinced Eurocommunists. They come at a time when the decisive moment is now approaching in which the Italian political scene will be marked by an increased communist influence—despite the recent Washington statement—by a somewhat desperate recourse to a general election.

Sigior Andreotti, the Prime Minister-elect, has suspended negotiations for the formation of a new government until the national executive of his Christian Democratic Party meets tomorrow to give him more room in which to manoeuvre or, virtually, forces him to admit defeat.

Reports of private meetings of Christian Democratic parliamentarians yesterday suggest that he cannot expect to be given much more leeway in seeking a new understanding with the communists.



Not a concept of a second millennium horseman of the Apocalypse but a Swiss soldier and his mount equipped for gas warfare.

'Crisis of confidence' in Bonn over bugging

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Feb 2

Herr Georg Leber, the West German Defence Minister, on the brink of resignation about espionage and bugging cases, today reported to coalition party leaders on allegedly illegal methods used by the military counter-intelligence service.

No details of his report were disclosed but he is believed to have stated on several occasions that counter-intelligence agents bugged people's homes and offices without authorization in their efforts to track down spies.

The tense three-hour meeting appeared to be the last stage of Herr Leber's painful downfall over his handling of the two affairs. He offered his resignation yesterday and although Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, and the Cabinet asked him to think it over, his final departure is expected any day now.

Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, the leader of the Bavarian Christian Social Party, demanded the resignation of the whole Government. He and Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democratic Leader, said there was a "crisis of confidence" in the government.

Herr Schmidt cancelled all engagements and announced, so as to cushion the blow somewhat, that there will in any case be a Cabinet reshuffle sometime in the spring. It was disclosed yesterday that Herr Karl Ravens, the Housing Minister, and Herr Helmut Rohde, the Education Minister, would be leaving shortly.

The departures of the other two ministers are, however, unlikely to detract much attention from the political harm Herr Leber has done to the Government.

An outstanding Defence Minister who will be difficult to replace, Herr Leber committed a series of gaffes when a big espionage case and the illegal bugging were revealed in the press. As he resigned, he disclosed that the Parliament had been misled for a third time about the affairs.

He admitted that the counter-intelligence service had been involved in more illegal bugging activities than the one instance which he had assured Parliament last week was an "isolated case".

West German newspapers claimed today that numerous illegal bugging cases had come to light—figures ranged from 12 to 20. The right-wing daily Die Welt said that the offices of high-ranking Defence Ministry officials had been bugged, unknown to their occupants.

It was Herr Leber's clumsy handling of the two scandals, as much as the events in themselves, that helped to tarnish the strong and successful image which the Government acquired with the rescue of the 86 Luftwaffe airmen hostages in Mogadishu and its handling of the Schleyer kidnapping last autumn.

Herr Leber has been under fire since last December, when a newspaper disclosed that more than 1,000 top secret West German and Nato military documents had apparently been betrayed to East Germany by three Defence Ministry employees.

Italy attacks US 'interference' in West

By Michael Binyon

Rome, Feb 2

Italy today renewed its attacks on what it called "American interference in the internal affairs of West Europe".

The article by the newspaper's political columnist, Mr. Antonio Padellaro, attacked American hostility to Communist participation in West European governments, saying this was an attempt to limit democracy and curtail freedoms.

The article also attacked the recent warning against communists being drawn into governments of Italy, Spain and elsewhere, the Soviet media conducted an intensive propaganda campaign, using the Americans' official and military blackmail.

Italy today said the Pentagon was trying to "impose" a "neutron bomb" on West Europe, and Washington had tried to determine the tactical order in these countries, including the composition of governments.

What most concerns the Russians at the moment is the situation in Italy. The Russians would obviously like to see the Communists gain a foothold in Italy, but the Soviet attitude towards the Italian Communist Party and others which call themselves Eurocommunists remains ambivalent.

In the current issue of New Times, a weekly foreign affairs journal, the Western press is sharply attacked for "misinterpreting" an earlier criticism of Senator Manuel Azcarate, the Spanish Communist leader. He had been denounced for saying the Soviet Union was not a socialist state.

The current "clarification" says Westerners appear not to have read the original article. Nobody, it says, is attacking the Spanish Communist Party, or Spanish Communist views.

However, a few paragraphs later, the New Times article says Senator Azcarate "has adopted a position long held by the enemies of Marxism, communism and the working class".

The article asserts that that Western commentators saw the original attack as Soviet opposition to West European communist parties in general, and to the concept of Eurocommunism. This is "downright falsification".

But it adds immediately, "unfortunately fraternal parties, too, have reacted badly".

The impression left by the New Times article, and by other recent statements on Eurocommunism, is that the Russians are trying to have their cake and eat it. By all means work out your own strategy—but do not stray from the right path.

This pattern of ambivalence has persisted in all Soviet writings on Eurocommunism. An attack is followed by a "clarification" smoothing things over. The Russians do not want a decisive break with any fraternal West European party, especially one with the Italians now that the possibility of power looms larger for them.

EEC acts against France over imports of lamb

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Feb 2

Legal proceedings have been opened by the European Commission against France for infringing EEC free trade rules by restricting imports of lamb, mainly from Britain.

At the same time, Britain and France have been taken to task for curbing pork imports.

The Commission contends that free trade in lamb inside the EEC should have existed from the beginning of this year and intends to present proposals later this year for a minimum common market regime in sheepmeat.

France, however, still operates a system of import levies designed to protect its home market.

The legal action by the Commission was prompted by British protests last month against a bilateral Franco-Irish deal whereby Irish exporters are allowed to ship about 100 tonnes of lamb and live sheep to France a week free of import charges.

British exporters, however, continue to be subject to substantial levies.

The French will be given about a month to justify their policy. If their explanations fail to satisfy the Commission, which seems likely, France will be told to abolish its import system or face arraignment before the European Court of Justice.

The same procedure will apply in the case of potatoes.

Dr Soares puts economic recovery before socialism

From Our Correspondent

Lisbon, Feb 2

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, today presented to the Assembly the programme of his second Government which will be the subject of a five-day debate opening on Wednesday.

In his speech lasting more than two hours Dr Soares defended his former Socialist Government's record and repeatedly pleaded for national unity to help the present one in its task of restoring the country's economy.

He emphasized that this programme was within the framework of an agreement between the Socialist Party and the Christian Democrats, who are in the Government.

He emphasized that socialist ideals would have to take a secondary role to economic recovery, saying: "It is important to talk about socialism and socialist options, but we must all agree that the building of socialism is now less important than the economic recovery of this country if we are to save Portuguese democracy."

He said that the programme aimed at consolidating democracy, carrying out administrative reform assuring social peace and improving the position of women in society.

Acknowledging that the country's financial position was extremely serious, he insisted on the need of austerity for all. He also emphasized the necessity of re-opening negotiations for a \$50m (£25m) loan with the International Monetary Fund, which were suspended last November pending further developments.

With rising emotion, he called on the country to unite and urged the workers to cease labour unrest.

The workers must understand that high salaries were not possible at present and would only aggravate inflation.

The Government's programme provides for a one-year economic stabilisation plan that will take into account future possibilities. It also includes a medium-term development plan to help Portugal to reach a level that would enable it to integrate into the EEC.

Danish hippies lose claim to barracks

From Our Correspondent

Copenhagen, Feb 2

The Danish Supreme Court today rejected a claim by the people of Christiansia, Copenhagen's "hippy city", that they have a right to an abandoned Army barracks occupied by squatters in 1971. The 1,000 residents could lawfully be ejected without further notice, the court ruled.

Immediately after the announcement, Mr. Joergensen, the Prime Minister, called in leaders of all parties represented in the Folketing for consultations. Government sources said support would be sought for altering a Folketing decision in 1976 ordering the evacuation of Christiansia.

Some of Christiansia's idealists, drop-outs, drug addicts and drunks have threatened to disrupt road and rail traffic throughout Copenhagen if any attempt is made to evict them.

Salary cuts preferred to redundancies

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Feb 2

A majority of the International Labour Organisation's staff are in favour of salary cuts to save the jobs of 150 employees facing dismissal because of economies. This is evident from returns of questionnaires sent last month to all 2,500 staff—some 1,400 at headquarters—by the ILO staff union, which is proposing a maximum wage reduction of 10 per cent.

The organization is in financial difficulties because of a 25 per cent budget cut necessitated by the United States withdrawal from membership in November.

Mr. Ali Taqi, the union chairman, said: "If it is finally accepted, a salary cut will have to be accompanied by a corresponding reduction in working time. As a matter of principle, I do not think the staff could simply accept a straight reduction."

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London 11:45 am.	Dallas-Fort Worth 3:05 pm.	Tulsa 5:10 pm.	
	Houston 4:50 pm.	Denver 6:10 pm.	
	San Antonio 4:47 pm.	Kansas City 6:40 pm.	
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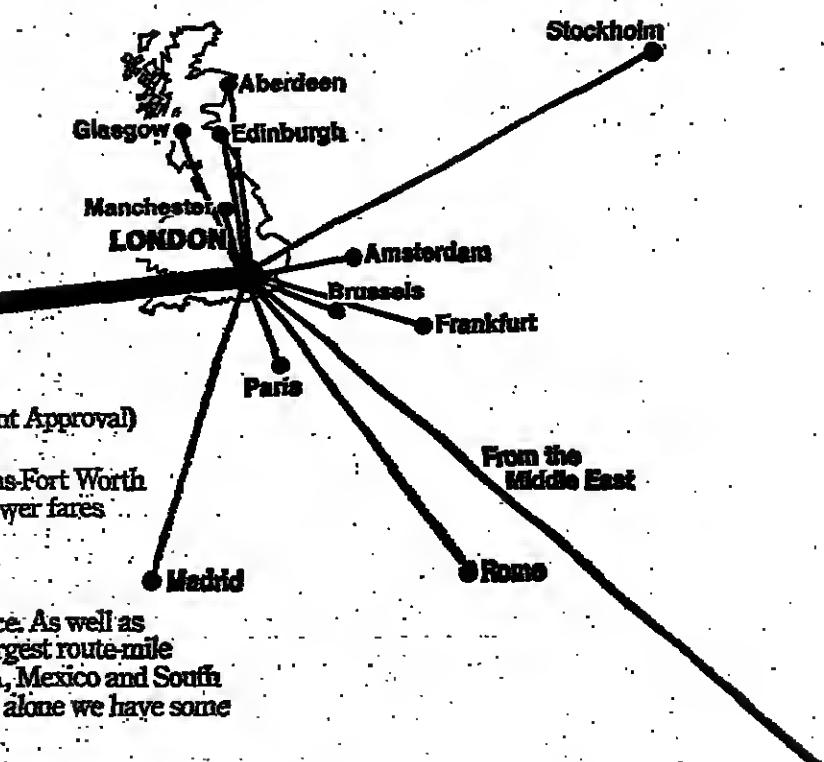
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Patriotic Front trims policy in prospect of internal settlement

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

An elusive organization, crucially important in the Rhodesian struggle yet hard to take at its face value, the Patriotic Front is now changing its tactics.

In their talks with Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Andrew Young, the United States special envoy, in Malta this week, Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, the joint leaders, were embarking on a new policy rather different from their stated objectives.

Up to now the Patriotic Front has relied on its military campaign by the "freedom fighters" in Mozambique and Zambia to win independence in free Zimbabwe. This struggle, of course, goes on.

But apart from the fact that its military gains have been rather less striking than the claims made for them, the Front now sees that it is in danger of losing all that it has achieved through an "internal settlement" in Salisbury.

No doubt this is the motive for talking to Britain, and also the United States, which not so long ago the Front's leaders said they wanted nothing to do with.

Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe are well aware that the internal settlement, which they dismiss as an irrelevance, may come into effect. What is more, they also appreciate that so far as a large sector of British and American public opinion is concerned, such a settlement might look very acceptable.

The Front have been thinking very seriously about what to do even applying that esoteric branch of strategy, Games Theory, to their problem. Part of the answer, they have decided, lies in winning over British and American public opinion.

This explains their objective in Malta, not just to baffle the talks, but to make sure the talks continue—as they will do soon. It also underlines their

new and more moderate attitude towards holding elections in Rhodesia before independence.

They may not altogether like the idea—feeling as they do that they would be under a severe handicap in an election—but they realize that Western public opinion would be most unsympathetic if they tried to put off an election (as President Kaunda of Zambia was recently urging).

But as Mr Mugabe made it unmistakably clear in Malta, a deep difference in political philosophy underlies some of the disagreements on procedure. "We do not view the role of the United Nations (one of the fundamental points in dispute) as one of supporting the colonial power, in its bid to consolidate itself and its economic interests among the people of Zimbabwe," he told Malta television.

On the argument over the role of Lord Carver, the Commissioner-designate for Rhodesia, he had this to say: "We are not intending to replace the white bourgeois property owners with a black bourgeois class. We are fighting against the system in that country. The system has to go."

According to Mr Andrew Young, who has spent much time this week in late-night chats over a drink with African delegates, he heard nothing in the Malta discussions which sounded communist. He suggested that it reflected "a lack of confidence in the Western Christian tradition, to suppose that the Africans educated in this tradition would turn away from it, as a result of 'turning to the East in a moment of desperation for arms'."

Mr Young may be right in supposing that the future Zimbabwe would be a society like Zambia, Tanzania or Kenya; but it is clear that the Patriotic Front leadership is developing an own idea of where it wants to go.

Leading article, page 15

Sithole formula averts Salisbury deadlock

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Feb 2

A breakdown of the Rhodesian internal settlement talks appeared to have been averted today when the Rev Nkomo's Sithole offered a compromise to resolve the delicate issue of the election of whites to a black majority parliament.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United African National Council (UANC) wants whites to have only 20 seats out of 100 and to be elected on the basis of a separate roll. The Rhodesian Government, Mr Sithole's African National Council and the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation had already agreed to 23 whites seats elected on a separate white voting roll.

It was the bishop's disagreement on this matter which largely led to his walk-out last Friday. He returned to the conference yesterday but the meeting broke up without anything constructive being achieved. Today in an atmosphere which suggested a breakdown was imminent, Mr Sithole offered a compromise paper.

Exact details are not known yet but it proposes a common voters' roll with whites elected on a complicated preferential voting system. It is not thought that this would be acceptable to Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, but all four parties agreed to consider it. They adjourned again on Tuesday.

Sources close to the talks said the atmosphere today was an improvement on yesterday. There was an uncomfortable, tense situation at first but the mood changed slightly after Mr Sithole's paper was presented.

Ethiopian Migs raid Somali rebel positions

Mogadishu, Feb 2—Ethiopian aircraft have attacked for two days concentrations of Somali insurgents in the embattled Ogaden region, diplomatic sources said today.

They said that the aircraft had struck targets lying between Harar and Babel, a strategic town about 25 miles east of Harar.

The purpose was to "demoralize the Somalis", by killing cattle and other livestock in addition to attacking military positions.

The aircraft, mostly MiG21 fighters supplied by Russia, also attacked Somali positions in the southern province of Sidamo.

The Somalis are reported to be gravely concerned about the lack of any effective air defences to guard against Ethiopian air raids. There were reports in Mogadishu that missiles were being urgently sought from Arab supporters.

Biko case police will not be prosecuted

From Our Own Correspondent
Cape Town, Feb 2

The Attorney General of the Eastern Cape announced today that he had decided not to prosecute anyone in connection with the death in police detention last year of Steve Biko.

It was in Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape, that Mr Biko suffered the head injuries which led to his death.

However, the South African Medical and Dental Council has still to decide whether disciplinary action should be taken against two Port Elizabeth surgeons who examined Mr Biko during his detention.

Dance fight kills seven
Bangkok, Feb 2—A fight over a dance fight culminated in 15 minutes of machine-gun fire, killing seven people and wounding 30, at a Thai festival last night.

Mr Sadat sets off for US with no high hopes

From David Weiss
Cairo, Feb 2

President Sadat of Egypt left here today for talks with President Carter in Washington which could determine whether or not his drive for peace in the Middle East will end in success. Mr Sadat is making a stopover in Morocco before going on to America tomorrow. His departure was a low-key affair in keeping with the present mood in the Egyptian capital.

The past two days of discussions with Mr Alfred Atherton, the American Assistant Secretary for the Middle East, have indicated that mood. It has become clear that expectations for talks in the United States must not be raised too high.

Not only are there Egyptian and Israeli ideas of how the Palestinian question should be solved, but also the American formula which seeks to bridge the gap between the other two. But there is no agreement among the parties on any of these schemes.

According to diplomats, Israel's refusal to grant even the smallest concession on the question of a Palestinian homeland or withdrawal from occupied Arab territory has convinced Mr Sadat that the American formula is not sufficiently strong to ensure that the Palestinians will eventually get the state they want.

The American plan calls for the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and provision for them to play a part in the determination of their own future. Israel has stuck to its formula for self-rule which seems little different to the present situation.

Diplomats said the differences remain so fundamental that even American semantic skill cannot bring them together.

Meanwhile, Cairo is being equally definite, as it has from the start, in its rejection of the presence of any Israelis on Egyptian land. Though the military men who have been leading the mechanics of withdrawal from the Sinai, are said to have been able to understand each other's problems this has not led to any movement in the military committee, which has been recessed.

President Sadat's mission is to try and convince Mr Carter that only he can ensure the success of the best chance for peace in the Middle East in 30 years through a fundamental change in American policy.

Rabat, Feb 2—Mr Sadat arrived here today on the first stop of his 13-day tour of America and seven other countries.

He was met at Rabat-Sale airport by King Hassan of Morocco, who is one of the strongest backers of Mr Sadat's peace initiatives with Israel. With the President was Mr Mohammed Adnan, the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

After leaving the United States next Wednesday, President Sadat will visit Britain, West Germany, Austria, Romania, France and Italy on his way home.

Marriage curb call

Dacca, Feb 2—The Bangladesh National Youth Association has advised 300,000 unmarried members to delay their marriage until the age of 28 for a man and 23 for a woman, to curb the birth rate.

West puts forward new proposals on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford
Cape Town, Feb 2

Ambassadors representing the five Western powers tonight presented the South African Government with their latest proposals for a settlement in Namibia (South-West Africa). They were also being presented in Lusaka to the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

The proposals will form the basis of the negotiations by the Western powers—Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada—with South Africa and SWAPO in New York later this month.

The talks will begin at official level on Tuesday and at foreign minister level on February 11. Tomorrow the proposals will be presented to the five front-line states and the weekend a delegation led by Mr William Bowdler, the American Ambassador to South Africa, will travel to Windhoek to explain them to political organizations in the territory.

New York talks are widely regarded as being the last chance to involve both the South Africans and SWAPO in a peaceful settlement.

South Africa has already announced its intentions to press ahead with an internal independence settlement should the New York negotiations fail and it has become clear that



The newly discovered fragment of radioactive debris being repacked at Yellowknife, north-west Canada, after spending the night in a dustbin.

Radioactive satellite part recovered

Edmonton, Alberta, Feb 2—United States and Canadian scientists have recovered a fragment of the fallen nuclear-powered Soviet satellite which is emitting up to 10 times the radiation of other debris, a Canadian defence spokesman said today.

The fragment, measuring 10 inches by three inches and half an inch thick, was discovered yesterday near a weather station called Fort Reliance in Canada's Northwest Territories.

Begin gibe at 'state of orange poisoners'

TL Aviv, Feb 2—Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, today accused Palestinian guerrillas of poisoning Israeli oranges in Europe. "It is a horrifying thing that they try to damage the Israeli economy of the expense of German and Dutch children," he said during a tour of a packing plant near Haifa.

His comments came as Israeli experts met to determine their reaction to reports that two dozen oranges were injected with mercury somewhere in Europe.

"Israel will not permit the establishment of a state headed by orange poisoners," Mr Begin said, referring to repeated Arab calls for the setting up of a Palestinian state on land captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

Although the Palestine Liberation Organization denied any connexion with the incident, a group called the Arab Revolutionary Army-Palestine Command claimed responsibility.—UPI

children and several patients at a sanatorium in Bad-Soden, Hesse, became ill today after eating apparently contaminated oranges, a Frankfurt police spokesman announced here.

The health authorities speculated that Arab terrorists tampered with shipments of Spanish oranges in the belief they were Israeli oranges. Maasricht, the Netherlands: The health authorities said mercury had been found in a Spanish orange bought in a supermarket.

Stockholm: The Swedish TT news agency reported that an orange inspected of containing mercury had been found in the southern town of Trelleborg and was being examined.

Madrid: The Spanish authorities today ruled out the possibility that the poisoned Spanish oranges had been tampered with in Spain.

London: The Department of Health advised the British public to examine carefully any orange before eating it.

Angolans say mercenaries will be shot on sight

Any British mercenaries arriving in Angola will be "shot on sight," the British Ambassador in Brussels has been told.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the ambassador, Sir David Muirhead, received the warning when he met the Angolan Ambassador in Belgium, who expressed concern about reports of British mercenaries being recruited.

The implication was that there would be no "messing about" with court proceedings. The Foreign Office last week announced that mercenaries could be in no way responsible for the fate of mercenaries.

Polanski extradition call

Los Angeles, Feb 2—The Los Angeles district attorney's office announced today that it would seek the extradition of Roman Polanski, the film director, from France to face a sentence on the conviction of sexual intercourse with a girl of 13.

Mr Polanski fled to France today after failing to appear for sentencing in a Santa Monica court yesterday. Judge Laurence Rittenband said that he would impose the sentence by Tuesday week with or without Mr Polanski.—UPI

US plan to boost defence of Europe

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 2

Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, said today he hoped to improve the capability of the United States to fight a sudden war in Europe by increasing the number of troops and aircraft available to fly in quickly.

Recalling President Carter's commitment to strengthen the collective defence for West Europe, he said that forces would be ready for intense fighting there when they were well enough trained to react quickly to an emergency and when their equipment and reserve supplies were adequate.

Unfortunately, I cannot report that our forces by this definition are as ready as I would like them to be," he said, citing such reasons as training cuts, a shortage of funds and energy problems.

In view of this, the Administration hoped that the present one or two divisions of troops sent to Europe within 10 days could be increased to five divisions and 60 squadrons by 1982.

Mr Brown was presenting his department's annual report to Congress at the opening of hearings into President Carter's defence budget for the next fiscal year. The budget, which was published here last week, proposed total expenditure of \$117,000m (£59,000m) and presented a 3 per cent real growth in outlays over the current fiscal year.

Today's report seeks to justify the proposed increase in spending and provides more details of the Administration's defence strategy and priorities. Similar reports in the past have traditionally emphasized the need in response to kind to the build-up of Warsaw Pact forces.

Using the analogy of the tortoise and the hare, Mr Brown said the United States pulled ahead of the Soviet Union in the late 1950s and early 1960s but had fallen behind since then. "Now we must increase our investment in defence if we are to stay abreast," he said.

Outlining a long-term strategy to achieve this goal, the report says that priority will be given to buying tanks, short-range missiles and some 2,000 tactical fighter aircraft.

In the strategic sector, emphasis will be placed on the development of the cruise missile which, Mr Brown believes, offers the West hope of outnumbering remaining Soviet

strategic weapons after attack.

The report rejects the American Navy's demands for a ship fleet on the ground that this is "not feasible in the decade". Nevertheless, Brown hopes to increase present total of some 200 fast combat vessels to 225, while maintaining the size of the present fleet at some ships.

The report also disclosed the Soviet Union will not begin flight tests on two types of intercontinental ballistic missile and will not develop a new intercontinental ballistic missile. It notes that 1964 the Soviet Union had launched its airborne forces developed the beginnings of a strategic offensive, an obvious assault capability.

While being prepared for a full-scale war in the United States must also be ready to react effectively to a smaller conflict in another part of the world, like the Middle East, the report says that the United States and its allies, the NATO members, must be able to respond to a crisis.

He said the Russians' civil defence stemmed from the "negative impact of imperialism". These forces were at work in a number of Western countries, especially the United States. He opposed the détente did not want to abandon the military ventures in the "cold war" with international issues, were hampering efforts to international tension.

General Alumin said that the military propaganda campaign to abandon the détente was constantly being used, false reports spread about the existence of a "So menace".

"Contrary to the facts, civil defence of the Soviet Union presented to Americans as a 'secret weapon' of the Russians, a weapon allegedly holds a potent danger to the Western community," he said.

But, he added, Soviet defence did not threaten a one-sided and represented no danger to the West.

Cosmonauts refuel Salyut engines in outer space

Moscow, Feb 2—Two Soviet cosmonauts today successfully carried out a dangerous and unprecedented outer space refuelling of the jet and rocket engines of their Salyut 6 space laboratory.

The Soyuz 26 cosmonauts—Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri Romanenko and Mr Georgy Grechko—have been preparing for the transfer of the highly volatile fuels for the past 12 days since the unmanned capsule docked with Salyut carrying vital supplies.

Tass said: "According to telemetric information," and reports from the cosmonauts, the Salyut 6 refuelling programme has been completely carried out.

The cosmonauts had to carry out a thorough check of fuel nozzles, tanks and lines before beginning the transfer of the liquid oxygen-based rocket fuel.

Their successful effort at the Salyut 6 space laboratory, a new lease of life, and if rockets are used to push further out into space it can last for up to 24 months.

Tass said the Salyut systems were all functioning normally and both cosmonauts were in good shape after a difficult refuelling operation.

The cosmonauts, on the Salyut 6, in correct balance and alignment to Earth, will the larger rocket engines a used for major corrections in orbit.

Western experts said today that the refuelling operation was a significant step in the history of space exploration, preparing for years ago, a series of experiments on the effects of weightlessness on the flow of liquids.—UPI

TV chat enhances Carter image

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 2

President Carter went on television last night to defend the Panama Canal treaties. It was his first "fireside chat" since last April and it may have been his most effective piece of public oratory since he took office.

There has been much criticism of the President for many months past. It has been alleged that he is not giving the country the leadership it wants, that he vacillates on matters of high policy and even that the presidency is proving too much for him.

The way he delivered his broadcast was much more important than what he said. There were no astonishing revelations or hard news to put into a headline. The arguments in favour of the treaties (like the arguments against them) are all very familiar by now.

Mr Carter was authoritative, eloquent, altogether credible, altogether presidential. He looked and sounded like a President of the United States wholly in command of the office and entirely capable of directing the nation's destinies.

He seems at last to have mastered his nervous habit of grinning suddenly at odd moments, and he managed last night to hit the right balance between inspiration and didacticism. Instead of stammering, with statistics of oil imports

and fuel consumption, or reverting to his campaign technique of telling his audience how good and kind they were, he took a very serious issue and treated it seriously and masterfully.

He did not please everyone. "I have heard many fireside chats," Senator Barry Goldwater said. "But I have never listened to one so completely filled with distortions, lack of honesty and lack of candour as the one I listened to tonight."

Mr Goldwater opposes the Canal treaties.

Senator Robert Byrd, the Democratic leader in the Senate, who supports the treaties, said that "When the facts are placed on the table as they were tonight, there must be a shifting of sentiment in favour of the treaties."

Callup poll published yesterday shows for the first time that more Americans support the treaties than oppose them, 45 per cent to 42 per cent.

Speaking of the need to defend the canal, the President said: "I would not hesitate to deploy whatever armed forces are necessary to defend the canal, and I have no doubt that even in sustained combat, we would be successful."

But there is a much better option than sending our sons and grandsons to fight in the jungles of Panama. We would serve our interests better by implementing the new treaties, an action that would help to

avoid any attack on the Panama Canal.

In his conclusion, the President said: "We Americans want a more humane and stable world. We believe in good will and fairness, as we strength. This agreement with Panama is something we know we know is right. This is not merely the surest way to protect and save the canal; it is the strong, positive act of a people who are still confident, still creative, still great."

The speech was carried live on two of the country's three commercial television networks and by the much smaller Public Broadcasting Service. The third, commercial network, the Columbia Broadcasting System, refused to carry the speech.

CBS had a "special" of which it was particularly proud, something called "See How they Run," and decided that it would go the better of its rivals by recording Mr Carter and broadcasting the tape late at night.

The President's press spokesman said that the decision was "unprecedented". But, in fact, it happened to President Ford when CBS said: "There is no indication of special urgency or dramatic change in President Carter's position."

The CBS affiliate in Washington had other ideas. It put out a basketball match, thus snubbing the President and Joanne Woodward, the star of "See How they Run."

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ERSEAS

Thai-Cambodian agreement to end border clashes and exchange envoys has Peking's blessing

David Bonavia, London, Feb. 2. The New China news agency reports the talks at a conference in Peking between Mr. Sary, the Cambodian Prime Minister and Dr. Phoum, the Vietnamese Prime Minister, the two countries have agreed to exchange envoys and to end border clashes. The agreement, which is the first of its kind since the Vietnam-Cambodia war, is seen as a sign of a new era of peace and stability in the region. The two countries have agreed to exchange envoys and to end border clashes. The agreement, which is the first of its kind since the Vietnam-Cambodia war, is seen as a sign of a new era of peace and stability in the region.

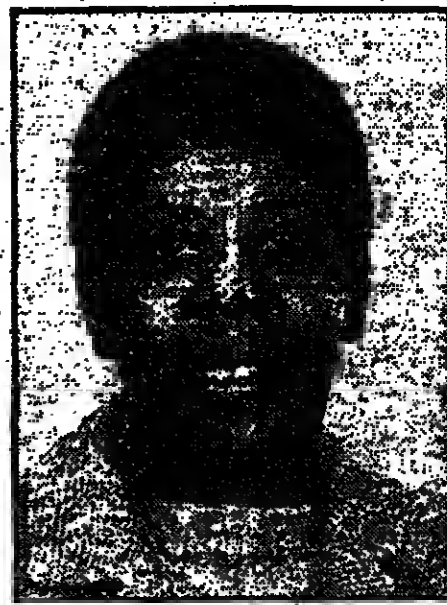
statement at a banquet that the so-called five principles of peaceful coexistence must be observed, and "any country which does not respect these principles will be condemned by the world, Thailand in particular". It is especially ironical for China to express its views on the Cambodian-Vietnam war through the mouth of the Foreign Minister of a country which supports the communist insurgents with words at the very least. Thailand has no common frontier with China, but Chinese arms and supplies are believed in the past to have reached insurgents there through Vietnam.

Peking's new-found enthusiasm for "non-interference" in the affairs of South-east Asian nations coincides with the visit to Burma by Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, who is believed to have discussed with President Ne Win the question of pro-communist insurgents in the common border area. There are signs that China is leaning more and more towards the idea of helping to prop up the governments of South East Asian nations as a counterweight to Soviet influence there. Peking openly supports the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) consisting of Thailand, the Philip-

Mr Bhutto charged with misuse of funds

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, Feb. 2. Six further charges were brought today against Mr. Bhutto, the deposed Prime Minister, who is already on trial for murder. The charges relate to his official position, election rigging, evasion of taxes, misuse of government funds, violation of foreign exchange regulations and using the funds of Pakistan embassies for his personal needs, and purchase of arms and ammunition. If found guilty, Mr. Bhutto could be disqualified from making part in politics for seven years, apart from any prison sentence. The new charges were brought before Mr. Justice Shahid Razaq of the High Court. He directed Mr. Bhutto to appear on February 21 to answer charges in three of the cases. According to the prosecution, Mr. Bhutto as Prime Minister had planned large-scale rigging of the general elections of last March long before the polls. A plan for manipulating district administrations and even provincial governments was drawn up to ensure a landslide victory for his People's Party had been prepared as early as 1974. Under another charge Mr. Bhutto is alleged to have co-opted a large number of former holders of public office. Mr. Bhutto is estimated to own property and other assets valued at £25m. The amount he declared was £900,000. Mr. Bhutto is alleged to possess 2,000 acres of land in the Government of the Land Reforms Act. He is further accused of having misused government funds and machinery for the development of land, causing a loss to the Government estimated at £4.5m. The prosecution said Mr. Bhutto as President and later as Prime Minister, spent £2m from secret government funds on organizing his political party and towards paying the expenses of party office holders. He is also accused of having spent secret funds on his private requirements. According to the prosecution, Mr. Bhutto had his private homes at Karachi and Lahore completely renovated and air conditioned at government expense. The charges have been brought after extensive inquiries conducted by the federal investigation agency of the Ministry of the Interior. In the murder trial Mr. Bhutto is now boycotting the court proceedings and refusing to defend himself. He says he has done so in order to register his protest against the manner in which the trial is being held.

Bermuda: why the government must prevent more riots



Mrs Lois Browne-Evans.

Mr Quinton Edness.

Just over two months ago, on December 1, a black youth—he cannot be identified because there are a number of cases still before the courts—lit the rag fuse of a petrol bomb and tossed it into the office adjoining the Bristol Cellar's liquor warehouse in Hamilton, capital of the tiny mid-Atlantic island of Bermuda. The carpet caught fire, but when the fire brigade arrived a crowd of angry blacks prevented the firemen from reaching the blaze. By morning the warehouse and its contents were totally destroyed; a loss estimated at more than £250,000. On the same night Mr David Powell, the white wholesaler manager of the company, feared his family to safety on the eastern tip of the island then watched helplessly as the warehouse burned. "The early morning flames," he recalls with grim yet faintly whimsical humour, "had a nice bluish tinge to them. That would have been our pre-war vintage Cognac going up."

The facts of that incident are clear enough, and neither side contests the other's story. But the fire, along with many others that night when millions of dollars worth of damage was done by rioters and looters, was a watershed. December 1 was the night on which the grievances which had for so long remained hidden on this apparently happy island in the sun, came bubbling to the surface. And perhaps December 1 was the night upon which, for the first time, Bermuda split along the lines of so many of its Caribbean neighbours to the south: racial lines. It could have been worse; it could have been better. Since the beginning of the seventeenth century, still a little bit of England even if it is more than 3,000 miles away, and the rioting—ostensibly a protest against the hanging of black murderers, Richard Burrows and another, who had been sentenced to hang for the murder of a white man—was a quickly English gentility about it. Hardly anybody was hurt on the streets and, despite the blood-curdling warnings given by black extremists for the benefit of the world's television crews, nobody was hurt by the rioting with physical harm whatever their colour.

The riots even had their moments of humour. One young Bermudian had the misfortune to throw his petrol bomb straight into the hands of a policeman, who promptly had it extinguished with a fire hose. Another, caught up in the hysteria of the moment, enthusiastically joined in smashing up and setting fire to a car which he belatedly discovered was his own. But there was, of course, a far more tragic side to it all. The black South-Asian community, three people died in a fire started by unknown arsonists. And tourism, upon which the island depends for more than two-thirds of its gross domestic product, took a hammering.

Bermuda has grown rich on tourism, although offshore banking and insurance are money-pullers too. Not much more than 20 miles long, and barely a mile wide for most of its length, it is in fact a group of 140 islands, many of them linked by bridges and causeways. It has a population of 55,000—two-thirds of whom are black—and those 55,000 have few of the troubles that beset the rest of the world. The average income is \$6,500 a year (the Bermudian dollar is on a par with the United States dollar), unemployment is only 2 per cent, and inflation has been held to 4 per cent. At much the same latitude as the Canary Islands, Bermuda enjoys long, hot summers and warm winters. Its superb beaches are protected by a vast reef many times larger than Bermuda itself, and the islands are a mix of the relatively primitive and the luxurious yet somehow brash hotels which appeal to the American market. New York is 90 minutes flying time away, and Americans make up 93 per cent of the island's visitors. Nevertheless, Bermuda always had a reputation as a place where the most popular long-haul holiday destinations.

But holidays and riots, do not go together. After all, as Bermuda's director of tourism, Mr Colin Selley, readily admits: "On vacation you are trying to get away from whatever it is that you want to get away from—and I don't think people want to head somewhere where there is a problem or might be a problem." The figures tell their own story: tourist

figures for December were 40 per cent down; January has been officially described as "slow", and with long-term conference organisers still viewing the island with a jaundiced eye, Mr. Louis-Caviez, general manager of the Bermudian Hotel, predicts: "They have really done it this time. We are going to have a awful season."

The riots, which began in 1968, 1969, and 1972, have been a slow process towards desegregation and universal suffrage—both of them postwar phenomena. But all that had seemed to be firmly in the past when I visited Bermuda last September, and the surface of the island had appeared to be on the verge of attaining the sort of society where colour is no longer an important consideration, or even a consideration at all. In such circumstances the December riots should have come as a surprise. But they did not, for the outrage felt over the hangings and, in all probability, by only a minority of the population—was merely the catalyst for the public airing of a whole batch of grievances.

Blacks and whites alike knew that there was trouble brewing, and knew—given the island's history—that it would erupt on the streets. And the main task of the Royal Commission which is now being set up, to inquire into the riots will not be to look at the past but the future, and to see how a repetition of the trouble can be prevented.

They will find, as I did on a return visit last week, a new sense of unease among the people; an air of disaffection that can only be increased as tourism struggles to pick up and layoffs continue among the itinerant blacks and immigrant Portuguese who do most of the manual jobs in the hotels and other holiday-orientated industries.

And there, of course, lies one of the roots of the trouble—the conflict between the white "haves" and the black (in Bermuda it would be wrong to call them "have-nots"). "Have-lesses." "Our people want a real share of the economic power," says Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans, the 20-year-old leader of Bermuda's official Opposition party, the Progressive Labour Party, and the woman who has become the voice of perhaps the majority of black Bermudians. "There is an interrelated group of wealthy men who have had it their way for too long."

There are many genuinely ambitious young black Bermudians who may work at two or three jobs in order to build up capital as well as loyally supporting the government of the officially multiracial United Bermuda Party and who suddenly find that their rewards are sparse. Even the Governor admits: "It is difficult for them to get into Front Street (the main thoroughfare shopping street, where property is at a premium), or even to get a loan from the banks to go into business."

And this is where most of the contributors to *Marx in the Fourth Decade* would place themselves—these are the social reformers, who start from existing political and social conditions to try to achieve their aims within that context. The nature of the various groups on the margins of the intelligentsia is examined by John Kenedi, a critic who also happens to be the editor of the other *Samizdat* volume. Kenedi argues that the bulk of Hungarian intellectuals have been co-opted into the establishment and will not readily rock the boat. But there are certain groups who have come up against the system and who reject co-optation. The role of the radicals and Marxists in this context is to form an independent unit within the types of marginalization and initiate the setting up of communication among other marginal groups."

The collection edited by Kenedi, called *Profile* (839 pages), is virtually a textbook example of his thesis. In *Profile* he brings together the unpublished articles and writings of 34 intellectuals, mainly non-Marxists. In his introduction, Kenedi analyses the way in which censorship works in Hungary. There is no formal censorship, nor are there regulations on what may be published and what may not; nevertheless, the number of unpublished manuscripts has been growing steadily in recent years.

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This is the sort of problem which the Royal Commission will have to face, just as it will have to face the PLP claim that it is kept from power—on the rather, the verge of power—by the odd way in which the lines of parliamentary constituencies are drawn. This "gerrymandering", Mrs. Browne-Evans claims, is what has given her PLP only 15 of the 40 parliamentary seats, despite the fact that, at the last election, they got 46 per cent of the vote.

The thought of a PLP victory at the next election in three years' time, which is a very real possibility despite the present distribution of seats, must cause a few restless nights in the big houses of Tuckers Town—Bermuda's most exclusive, and almost entirely white, residential area. White extremists—and Mr. David Gibbons, the Premier, admits: "They exist in every community, and we have our share of them." The PLP of being a black power party, and Mrs. Browne-Evans of being a racist rabble-rouser.

In fact black power has made only a cursory appearance on the island—but white members of the PLP are certainly thin on the ground. "We do have a small percentage of white members," Mrs. Browne-Evans admitted to me, "but it is very small." How many exactly? Well, she could only think of two, offhand.

By contrast, the UBP has black ministers in the government, and Mr. Gibbons's predecessor as Premier was black. And, if the party is not crippled by internal splits, it could perhaps go on towards righting Bermuda's racial wrongs. "The blacks don't have a fair share of economic opportunity, much less a fair share of ownership in banking, insurance, etc.," Mr. Gibbons says. "So we are taking steps to redress this." More steps are being taken by the new Minister for Community Relations, Mr. Quinton Edness, who is a black, and a cousin of Mrs. Browne-Evans. "Our people may be better off than in other countries," he says, "but that doesn't mean they don't feel angry. What we have not to find out is whether people have a right to be angry, and if so, what has caused it and then find out there is something in the system which prevents them from bettering themselves."

If it is to remain in power, the government also has to be sensitive to black discontent that is not so easily economic. When was on the island last week, they were trying hard to get rid of—in the best, bureaucratic, roundabout manner—a black American church minister who had had the temerity to speak out against the December hangings. The result of any such expulsion could be a martyr. And a martyr, or any similar spark, could mean fresh trouble in the streets despite the Royal Commission.

Fresh trouble could bring economic chaos to Bermuda, and this wealthy little island—clear, dry, and laid out like some exotic botanical garden—could yet become a strife-ridden thorn in Britain's side.

Robin Mead

inese writers

fore their med society

ing, Feb. 2.—The National Union of Chinese Writers, ceased functioning during the Cultural Revolution, has been restored with Mr. Mao as its president. The writer of Culture, back again president. People's Literature in its first issue this reported that a forum was held on December 28 to 30, attended by a hundred writers. The forum was held in the Great Hall of the People, and was presided over by Mr. Mao. The forum was held in the Great Hall of the People, and was presided over by Mr. Mao. The forum was held in the Great Hall of the People, and was presided over by Mr. Mao.

Student clashes in Delhi as the Shah arrives

Delhi, Feb. 2.—Students wearing red hoods clashed with police today as they demonstrated against the Shah of Iran. Police detained several students whose demonstration coincided with the Shah's arrival on a four-day visit to India. About 60 Iranian and several hundred Indian students took part in the demonstration in the city. The demonstration was held in the city of Delhi, and was attended by several hundred students. The demonstration was held in the city of Delhi, and was attended by several hundred students. The demonstration was held in the city of Delhi, and was attended by several hundred students.

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capital. They were told they would be deported if they held any hostile demonstration against the Shah. There are several thousand Iranian students in India but the restriction orders apply to only a few hundred, according to student sources. The students' case has been taken up by a group of eminent intellectuals who have deplored what they call the "factors on peaceful protest imposed by the Indian Government." A statement by 11 intellectuals, including a former High Court judge, Mr. V. M. Tarkunde, who was a leading opponent of the emergency imposed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said: "We ourselves have struggled and won the right to dissent. We are lost to us during the emergency and we urge upon the Government not to deny that right to foreigners staying in our country." The Indian students taking part in the demonstration today included members of the youth wings of the ruling Janata Party and of Indian communist parties.—Reuter and UPI.

Report February 2 1978

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Caravan sites: limits on jurisdiction

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Court of Appeal

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Hungary's intellectuals turn away from Marx

The Hungarian intelligentsia has been busy quiescent in recent years and apparently broad limits permitted by the system. This calm has now been broken by the decision of a number of younger intellectuals to launch two volumes of the *Samizdat* series. The line how different the situation is in Hungary, these are rather unlike the material that circulates clandestinely in Poland, Czechoslovakia or the Soviet Union. There are no prison sentences for reports of political trials, no documents detailing political prisoners, Hungarian *samizdat* concentrates on themes by intellectuals to define their ideological positions in a society that defines itself as Marxist and contains material that has found no official publisher. One of the two volumes, *Marx in the Fourth Decade* (270 pages long), was edited by András Kovács. The title refers both to the period during which Hungary has been ruled by the communists and to the fact that the contributors are all aged around 40, so that they were largely brought up in a society the values of which were ostensibly Marxist. The striking feature of the collection is that the contributors, who were part of the radical left of the 1950s and who still remain committed to "socialism", have generally concluded that Marxist ideology is insufficient by itself to answer the problems of East European societies today. One of the best known contributors is Miklós Haraszti, who was put on trial in 1973 for his book *Piece Rate* published last year as *The Worker in Workers' State*. Haraszti expressly states: "It does not matter that I was a Marxist. Nor does it matter that I am

not one any longer." The feeling that Marxism has become irrelevant emerges from several of the papers in the volume. In general, the generation represented in the collection has abandoned the legacy of Georg Lukács, the dominant figure in Hungarian Marxism, and no longer regards itself as linked to the so-called Budapest school. Marx in the Fourth Decade was compiled by Kovács on the basis of a questionnaire, the replies to which are simple and direct. "What is your question?" "What is your attitude to it?" Without exception, the replies show that a residual sympathy with Marxism, defined in the broadest possible terms, is all that remains of the "renaissance Marxism" of the 1960s, the era of liberalization. The respondents remain committed to transforming society, but the character of the past has been replaced by a significantly more varied approach. Whether their background was philosophy, economics, history or linguistics, the contributors were forced to face up to the failure of Marxism to provide relevant answers. "It would be a crude misunderstanding to imagine that Marxist theory ever played a determining role in any kind of major political decision making." In other words, it was just a facade and one which came to be perceived as increasingly empty of content. In looking for alternatives, an attempt was made by one of the papers to categorize the different approaches to social transformation current in Eastern Europe. There are the legalists and liberals on the one hand, whose overall objective is either to place the existing political order on a legal basis or to reform it; on the other

hand—and this is where most of the contributors to *Marx in the Fourth Decade* would place themselves—these are the social reformers, who start from existing political and social conditions to try to achieve their aims within that context. The nature of the various groups on the margins of the intelligentsia is examined by John Kenedi, a critic who also happens to be the editor of the other *Samizdat* volume. Kenedi argues that the bulk of Hungarian intellectuals have been co-opted into the establishment and will not readily rock the boat. But there are certain groups who have come up against the system and who reject co-optation. The role of the radicals and Marxists in this context is to form an independent unit within the types of marginalization and initiate the setting up of communication among other marginal groups."

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the rejection formulas used in conversation. These vary from: "Your piece would trigger off a major row to the minister. You want to have this published at the very moment when it is not at all certain that Q will be re-elected at the Congress? Your article would be a trump card in W's hands. Not that we like what Q is doing, but he is still better than W." In practice, there are certain ill-defined categories for rejection. These are operated through informal mechanisms which only vaguely question the censorship activated by appeals to an equally ill-defined higher interest. These categories may be taboo subjects, as with the short story in which the main character is a drunken Soviet soldier. One of the articles broke the unwritten rules by flouting convention in another way—it was an unusually frank self-analysis, detailing why the author gave up a comfortable post at a university and took a job in a factory. This implicitly questioned the privileged position of the intelligentsia as a whole. Sometimes the reason was more obviously political, as with the sociological study which looked at the demoralization of Hungarian Gypsies living in East Germany or slum life in Budapest.

By bringing these rejected works to a wider readership, *Profile* could demonstrate that rejection was not simply a matter of whims being put down on a one-off basis, but that there existed a system of censorship with its own internal rules and criteria. These may have been difficult to pin down, but *Profile* clearly showed that censorship was a reality and that its criteria were political.

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Pose of Commons

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition clashed over the existence of what Mrs Thatcher called a black list of companies which were under scrutiny of the Government's pay policy.

The Sun Alliance and London Insurance Group was mentioned during the exchanges at question time and Mr Callaghan said he hoped the Opposition and those who might be considering taking the Government to law on this matter, it would also consider the impact it was going to have on the insurance industry once again with the resulting inflation "which we have so painfully now overcome". He added that that was what the public were concerned about.

The questioning began when Mrs Margaret Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C) asked—Has the Prime Minister discussed with the representatives of the CBI whether they are threatened by his black list policy, or is he still maintaining it as a figment of the imagination?

Mrs James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East Wales) replied—the representatives of the CBI when I met them yesterday and I did not raise it myself. In fact, I do not know of any companies that have appeared in the newspapers on this issue out of the 600,000 companies that are actually on the list. It was not though worthwhile to discuss this at the moment.

Mrs Thatcher—Now he has admitted there is a black list, what does he mean about it? Is this being conserved? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Callaghan—I did not admit there was a black list. She puts it wrong. At the moment, it is known that there is a group of firms to which this matter has been put.

Repeating the question, she asked Front Bench are apparently engaged at this moment in a dispute with the Department of Trade and Industry?

Mrs Thatcher—He has given his usual slippery replies. (Conservative cheers.) There is a black list. Of how many firms are there? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Callaghan—I did not discuss this when I met the CBI—(Conservative interruptions and shouts of "Answer"). If I could ask the question, she has a perfectly good way of getting along by either putting down a question to the effect of State of Affairs? (Mr Dell).

If she is not satisfied by my answer, there is the perfectly usual fashion of putting up the stick and saying no more. I would then come to give her the figures that exist on this matter.

Mrs Hugh Downs (Harrow, East, Conservative)—The Prime Minister is blacklisted? How many more will be blacklisted? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Callaghan—There is no secret about this issue. (Conservative cheer.) If there is a secret it seems to be a damned decently kept one. (Laughter.)

When he came to the end of the night, Mr Callaghan told Lord Aldington to think the Government must be tight on some of these things.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentford and Ongar, C)—If the black list were to exist, what would be the legal basis for its continuation?

Can the Prime Minister tell me why the Sun Alliance and London Assurance group should not take the decision to improve the basis if it is employees' pensions?

Mrs Callaghan—Any question which comes before the House is decided. Were a black list to be set up, it would be a matter of nearly I am not called upon to reply.

I understand that the Sun Alliance are proposing to challenge the secret report that has apparently been made and which is well known to at least two of the directors of the company who sit in this House. (Labour cries of "Ob.")

Therefore, I have a feeling that people who are likely to become out will be quickly made known to the shadow cabinet through the directorships of the company. The Prime Minister and Sun Alliance board. (Labour cheers.)

Mr Nell Kinloch (Bedwellty, Labour)—On the subject of black lists, I am sure the Prime Minister has with the Leader of the Opposition why she appears to be pre-empting at least the remnants of the Conservative Party sitting on the all-party joint committee against racialism? (Labour cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—I have no nihilist view on this bill. My only appointment was by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Ivan Stanbrook (Bromley, Orpington, C)—Is not the truth of the matter that the Prime Minister knows that sanctions against these firms are quite unlawful? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—These firms with the courage to take the Government to court to bring the whole economic edifice down in ruins. (Conservative cheers.)

LAW OF MARRIAGE TO BE TIGHTENED

Mr Martin Rees, Home Secretary, said that he had emerged from talks with chief officers of police that there could be some tightening of the law on marriage. He thought would not make much difference to be simply considered the Public Order Act.

Mr Christopher Price (Levensham, Lancashire) had asked during questions whether the Home Secretary intended to meet the Chief Constable of Police of the Metropolitan Police in 1977-78 did he discuss the National Crime Council in connection with the law on marriage and its aftermath?

In retrospect, the commissioner did make an error of judgment in not applying to have that march banned. Has the Home Secretary any intention of making legislation to tighten up the Public Order Act?

Mr Rees (Leeds, South, Lab)—On the Public Order Act and the wider context of the law on marriage, I am under the Race Relations Act, I have talked to the chief officers concerned. It is emerging that there could be some tightening up of the law. It may be that it is my view is that it would not make much difference to the situation if I simply considered the Public Order Act.

I have discussed the matter with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis at my regular meetings. The officials of my police department are working on a day-to-day basis with the Yard.

My view is that if, and it is one

of an edifice considering the handful of firms involved, against the 600,000 private firms.

Mr. J. H. Williams (Leeds) said: "I am not a discussion on semantics involving the question whether a list is black."

I hope the Opposition and those who are opposing taking the Government to law on this matter will also consider the impact it wages go away on a runaway race again with the resulting inflationary pressure on the public not overcome (the others). Perhaps the Opposition will consider that aspect of the matter because I can assure them that it is the public are concerned about.

Mr. Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab.) Part of the Edwards plan for British Leyland is to be a system of wages to be large-bargaining much of which cannot be negotiated until after July 31 this year.

Therefore, will the Prime Minister be prepared to suggest to the Government from their repudiate comments about the need for a wage policy after July 31 which of necessity is impossible to discuss. The Edwards plan for Leyland and free bargaining which is now to be concluded under that plan?

Mr. Callaghan (Leeds, Lab.) The House who dislike any process of discussing wages and their future. Let me say that it is impossible to discuss any future economic progress of this country without discussing the role that wages and incomes play in the Labour scheme.

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Mrs. Thatcher asked—Will he arrange for a statement to be made next week by the appropriate authority for it and what sanctions are being operated against which the Government are not prepared to simply arrest and not pay a policy by threat and without reference to this House.

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Mr. Bobo (Marshall-Hyslop (Tiverton, C))—Since the Prime Minister is the senior Treasury minister and the black list is to do with holding the Government's hand, would he not answer the questions about the black list next week?

The Speaker is familiar with the procedure of the House. He can put down a question and see how it is accepted upon the Order Paper.

Mr. Peter Hardern (Horsbarn and South Devon, Lab.)—Will the Government adjourn debate on the decision of the Secretary of State for Trade (Mr. Dell) to force the Insurance Companies to cut their premium rates.

He said the Secretary's head-quarters were in London and this was a matter which would affect some hundreds of his constituents. Unless this matter was debated, the Government would be in order—upon a company which they were not entitled to do.

There was, according to the Government, no question of a black list and yet it was well known that the Government had a black list of firms to which they were not prepared to give an entitlement to temporary employment subsidy if the firm paid over a limit of 10 per cent.

The Government had a question of the Sun Alliance breaching the guidelines in any way. It had made an award of 9.9 per cent and it had not approved its pension arrangements.

A specific undertaking was given by the Secretary of State for Social Security that the Government would not make improvements to occupational pension schemes would be freed from any policy limitations.

The Government would not ground it all to try to force the Sun Alliance company to reduce its premiums.

There was a point of order; Mr. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe, C) told the Speaker that he had been endeavouring to table questions to the Government about the difficulties encountered by departments' black list in getting them tabled.

He asked the Speaker to rule on the point of order for the Government to be asked to name companies on departments' black list, and why they were blacklisted.

He also asked whether it was in order for departments to be asked to update information given to a committee on January 19, 1979, and whether the firms currently blacklisted was 19.

That answer (the said) is being given by the Government.

He also asked whether the number on the black list Conservative protests.

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Mr. Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab.)—The House will have heard a reply from the Prime Minister. He suggested that if Mrs. Thatcher put down a question that might be the best time to answer it.

Mr. Bobo (Marshall-Hyslop (Tiverton, C))—Since the Prime Minister is the senior Treasury minister and the black list is to do with holding the Government's hand, would he not answer the questions about the black list next week?

The Speaker is familiar with the procedure of the House. He can put down a question and see how it is accepted upon the Order Paper.

Mr. Peter Hardern (Horsbarn and South Devon, Lab.)—Will the Government adjourn debate on the decision of the Secretary of State for Trade (Mr. Dell) to force the Insurance Companies to cut their premium rates.

He said the Secretary's head-quarters were in London and this was a matter which would affect some hundreds of his constituents. Unless this matter was debated, the Government would be in order—upon a company which they were not entitled to do.

There was, according to the Government, no question of a black list and yet it was well known that the Government had a black list of firms to which they were not prepared to give an entitlement to temporary employment subsidy if the firm paid over a limit of 10 per cent.

The Government had a question of the Sun Alliance breaching the guidelines in any way. It had made an award of 9.9 per cent and it had not approved its pension arrangements.

A specific undertaking was given by the Secretary of State for Social Security that the Government would not make improvements to occupational pension schemes would be freed from any policy limitations.

The Government would not ground it all to try to force the Sun Alliance company to reduce its premiums.

There was a point of order; Mr. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe, C) told the Speaker that he had been endeavouring to table questions to the Government about the difficulties encountered by departments' black list in getting them tabled.

He asked the Speaker to rule on the point of order for the Government to be asked to name companies on departments' black list, and why they were blacklisted.

He also asked whether it was in order for departments to be asked to update information given to a committee on January 19, 1979, and whether the firms currently blacklisted was 19.

That answer (the said) is being given by the Government.

He also asked whether the number on the black list Conservative protests.

The Speaker (Mr. George Thomas) said: "The answer to the question is 'No', in that the Government will answer the question and will answer to the House tomorrow."

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Mr. J. H. Williams (Leeds) said: "I am not a discussion on semantics involving the question whether a list is black."

I hope the Opposition and those who are opposing taking the Government to law on this matter will also consider the impact it wages go away on a runaway race again with the resulting inflationary pressure on the public not overcome (the others). Perhaps the Opposition will consider that aspect

Dr. David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement that he was reporting on the meeting in Malta on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with Ambassador Young of the United States, the British Ambassador, Sir Geoffrey Lord Carver, and leaders of the Patriotic Front, Lieutenant-General Prem Chand, representatively designated by the United Nations Secretary-General, also took part in the talks.

Dr. Owen said: "The purpose of my talks with the Patriotic Front was in accordance with Security Council Resolution 415, to enter into discussions concerning the military and political aspects of the situation necessary to effect the transition to majority rule in Rhodesia. Whereas discussions on these matters have been held in the past with other nationalist leaders and with the regime we had not been able to have detailed talks with the Patriotic Front prior to the Maltese meeting.

"We achieved a much greater understanding of each other's position and have agreed to consider the cross transfer of arms and staff at a time and a place to be decided.

"In all these meetings I maintained that the Majesty's Government, supported by the United States Government, have never wavered in their view that the territory of Rhodesia must be returned to majority rule. In Command Paper 6919 represent the best route to independence for Rhodesia and the cross transfer of arms and staff to ensure the maintenance of peace and stability there.

"On the basis of these proposals we are prepared to accept responsibility for the territory to independence following elections and are resolutely committed to ensure that those elections would be free and to meet fully impartial. If we are to shoulder that responsibility we must have an agreed and a supervised cross transfer, in cooperation with the United Nations, the control necessary to ensure maintenance of peace and order during the electoral process.

"The Anglo/United States initiative depends on the willingness of the parties to the dispute to compromise between the present positions, and to allow the people of Zimbabwe as a whole, through their elected representatives, to determine their future.

"At present the necessary measure of compromise between the two sides has not been reached and, regretably, it appears inevitable that the armed struggle will for the present continue. The British Government will continue to work with all the parties, within the limits of the law, to bring about a settlement.

An Act need Assembly g

When the European Assembly Elections Bill was further continued in committee discussion on January 12 to replace the single majority system with a proportional system, opposition members of the House of Commons believed they could win two seats in Northern Ireland under the first past-the-post system, but they were told by the Government that Democrats that they were, they had an amendment down to reduce the number of seats from three to two and that it displayed unbecomingly arrogance.

Id putting forward their proposals for three seats and proportional representation in Northern Ireland, the Government were saying that the area could not be treated like any other part of the United Kingdom.

Mr. James Holyneaux (South Antrim, UU) said the Unionists had sought assurances and undertakings that Northern Ireland would be treated on an equal basis with the rest of the United Kingdom. It should be given no more and no less than other parts of the United Kingdom. They had asked only for fair representation. They had taken account of the view put forward by them that Northern Ireland should accept three seats and had decided not to move their amendment to reduce the number of seats from three to two.

They took account of the feeling of the Unionists in Northern Ireland to return a representative from one of the three seats if they so desired. They had decided to give them that at least they should be given the opportunity to do so.

He hoped this gesture would be a first step towards a more equal approach and might contribute to a certain defusing of the political situation in Northern Ireland. They would be giving the Unionists three seats, with the first-past-the-post method of voting, would be the best solution.

It was their policy that Northern Ireland should not be different in any way from the rest of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Merlyn H. Home Secretary (Leeds, South, Lab) said Northern Ireland was a part of the United Kingdom, but a special part. It was a part of the United Kingdom for which special policies were conducted in Britain and did not apply there. One had to take account of the feeling of dealing with Northern Ireland that it was not any more than that it was a lesser part or one that could be pushed aside.

Next week's business: a blacklist debate

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Debate on Private Members' Motion on Broadcasting Proceedings. Motion on third report of Committee of Privileges on "Blacklisting" of companies.

Tuesday: Debate on pay policy of "blacklisting" of companies.

Wednesday: Further progress in committee on European Assembly Elections Bill.

Thursday: Inner-Urban Areas Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private Members' Bills, Protection of Children; Armed Forces (Repossession of) Dwellings; Companies, all second reading.

The main business in the House of Lords next week will be:

Tuesday: Suppression of Terrorism Bill, second reading. Debate on European Committee report on research into the freedom of movement.

Wednesday: Debate on North Sea oil and on the miners' strike.

Thursday: Education (Northern Ireland) Bill, second reading. Debate on Education Bill, second reading and on opinion on the Bill.

Commonwealth Affairs (Kaukorstou C).—The statement asserts that after time that the Government are now prepared to consider two, reaching a peaceful settlement on the basis of his Anglo-American proposals.

Such an attitude appears to us to be a very reasonable one, especially in view of the progress made in the talks in Salisbury where, after all, Mr Smith has acknowledged the need for universal adult suffrage. How can we overstate the importance of this position?

His answers on the question of supervised ceasefires implies that it would only be when the Patriotic Front were ready to accept such a ceasefire he is prepared to move towards a peaceful settlement and give a veto to the Froeg which is at variance with anything like equity in the issue.

Did he press the Patriotic Front leaders to involve themselves in peaceful and orderly discussions with Rhodesia? If not, why not?

In view of the many reports to that effect, will he say whether he has been in contact with the national leaders in Rhodesia with a view to hindering the talks there in some way?

Dr Owen:—On the first point about whether or not we cooperated on the basis of the Anglo-American proposal, I did not say that. I said it offered the best solution. (Conservative shouts of "Why?")

I have constantly made clear that we do not believe we have made progress. The acceptance of "one man, one vote" was an important step, but it was a position outside of the central demands of the Anglo-American initiative.

As to saying that progress can be made as long as the Patriotic Front agrees, it is a fact that while two armies fight each other, we need both sides to agree to a ceasefire. It is not enough to have armies, neither of which has won or lost, is extremely difficult to achieve. History shows us that you should stop war however.

On whether I urged the Patriotic Front to talk to other nationalists, leaders, yes, and no. I have done so, and I am conscious of this division of opinion in the nationalist leadership is one of the most serious problems there. The situation and is one reason it has always been difficult to achieve a solution.

The answer to whether I hindered the talks, I think I must say "No". I communicated with all parties to the Geneva talks.

All parties have a right to be heard, whether from the South side, Rhodesia. (Conservative shouts of "Why outside?")

Before the Extraordinary

If they want to deal with the Province in a proper way they must sometimes have unusual ways of dealing with it.

Mr Douglas Reid, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs (Middlesex), said that the theme embodied in the amendment. The elections they were discussing were quite different from the elections in the United Kingdom, comparisons with other elections were not valid.

If we persist in treating Northern Ireland as a Senatorial exception, additional in all circumstances (he said) then we shall make it more likely that the abnormal and exceptional treatment will continue. Surely we should be trying to reduce what is exceptional in the circumstances of Northern Ireland.

Cosgrave said that this Bill held for the first time throughout the United Kingdom "on the same day it would be unwise to hold it in the same system in Ulster than the rest of the United Kingdom."

The amendment was rejected by 248 votes to 150—Government majority, 91.

The clause was carried by 170 votes to 53—Government majority. Number of seats. On Clause 2 (Number of representatives): Mr George Brown (Leeds, Strangeways and Clackmannan, Scot Nat) moved an amendment to increase the number of United Kingdom members of the assembly from 81 to 89.

He said he was proposing 16 seats for Scotland instead of the eight; 16 for Wales; and 17 suggesting that the English should be robbed of eight, to double the 'down' member. He was putting down a motion to limit the number of Scotsman who have party went independent.

Scotland and Denmark had population the same size, and Denmark had double Scotland's representation. Southern Ireland County Dublin population of Scotland but would be worth a third of an Irishman or half a Dane.

He related to the Senate House of State, Home Office, said that one European MP in Northern Ireland would represent 344,000 electors; in Scotland, 172,000; in Wales 154,000; and in England 116,000.

He accepted Wales and Scotland as nations, but not as nation states.

The amendment was rejected by 113 votes to 63, and the clause was carried by 122 votes to 47—Government majority, 75.

Powers of assembly, Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, moved a New Clause

Lord Chancellor

House of Lords

Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Chancellor, said he had decided to accept the ultimate responsibility for the Bill. He was replying to the Northern Ireland movement intended to have this amendment was moved when the Judiciary considered in committee (Ireland) Bill was considered in committee.

Lord Belsaid, moving the amendment for the Opposition, said that since direct rule began in 1972 overall responsibility for the Government had been shouldered by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The effect of the amendment was to place the ultimate responsibility for the unitary court service established by the Bill with the Lord Chancellor.

The person and office of the Lord Chancellor were a guarantee, and were seen as a guarantee, of the process. He also occupied an official of great end historic importance: the office which was seen to uphold the law of the land. Nowhere was it more the case. In Northern Ireland that this independence should remain, and be seen to remain, unimpaired.

Brought in increasing numbers of bills relating to the Northern

knows him knows that he is a man of his own opinion and will make up his own mind.

Mr Davies—How does Mr Owen reply to the remarks he has said in this in his statement: "On the basis of these proposals we are prepared to accept responsibility for bringing the territory to independence on the basis of these proposals, y and on the basis of other proposals, no. How can we be reconciling those statements?"

Mr Owen—The reconciliation may be made in the White Paper, 6319, for the first time ever the British Government have accepted that on the basis of those proposals we have no administrative authority in Rhodesia, a colony we have never administered.

The House would not wish to discuss the role of the Government or any Government assume responsibility for administering it if we were still in a situation of armed conflict. The basis of the proposals is that the Government should be a ceasefire and a peaceful settlement. That is difficult.

I do not think the House would wish us to assume responsibility for the situation in Rhodesia. That is the central point. It is the responsibility of this House as Government to pursue a peaceful settlement and try to achieve a ceasefire. That is difficult.

Mr Winston Churchill (Streeter C) made a remark inaudible in the House. I am sure Dr Owen remembers how his illustrious grandfather talked.

Mr Churchill—He did not want to discuss the situation in Rhodesia.

Dr Owen—This is not peace at any price, either. I can assure the House of that. The House has been negotiating in the past. Foreign Secretary have had to talk to people in places like Kenya, Cyprus, and Israel, who include the strongest. It is our job to reach a decision.

Mr Arthur Bottomley (Teesside, Middlesbrough, Lab)—I urge him to persist in putting forward the American plan proposals, which I think would be the best hope of securing peace in Rhodesia, unless the Patriotic Front is affiliated with the Government.

Dr Owen—The Government, of course, there can be no lasting peace.

Dr Owen—I believe progress has been made. The House reads the statement and will see that there was no agreement on one man one vote, black majority rule or a Bill of Rights. There has been a small step forward.

The main problem is that with the armed struggle continues it is

European wars

(Parliamentary approval of treaties increasing assembly powers) stated that no treaty which provided for any increase in the powers of the assembly should be approved until it had been approved by an Act of Parliament. Treaty included any international agreement, and said that the power of treaty or international agreement.

He said that the new clause fully filled an undertaking given earlier to reject any treaty which provided for increasing the powers of the European Assembly. Many MPs believed that direct elections would move towards federalism and that the power of the Commons would be eroded through the extension of those of the assembly without their being able to consider the issues in Parliament.

The Government had never accepted that the Community should develop into a federation. They were determined to defend the rights of national Government and Parliament.

The reality of parliamentary control over the Community was the Royal prerogative but its lack of visibility was a definite drawback.

The Government had decided earlier that in this sensitive area it was wrong and right to modify the constitutional position. They were therefore proposing in the clause that there should now be a statutory factor on the Royal prerogative to negotiate and ratify treaties.

The new clause would prohibit ratification of any treaty extending the powers of the assembly without the approval of Parliament.

Mr David Howell, for the Opposition (Guildford, C) said he wanted to be satisfied that the new clause could do the job intended for it and that the Government must justify the difficulties raised by MPs.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, U) said there were no powers which the European Assembly could exercise without the expense of Westminster. Power gained by one authority must be at the expense of some authority or authorities. The power must be existing in the atmosphere unclaimed.

The very existence of a directly elected European Assembly was bound to reduce the powers and significance of the Commons. It was not the scrutiny by the Commons that would be brought down by the assembly. The scrutiny and control of the Commons over EEC legislation would be destroyed because the two could not exist together.

Access to the courts to suppress terrorism

often operating under the cloak of terrorism were forced to fall back on the only last desperate option they had: to try to discredit the Government. The Government of this Bill would be proof against any such criticism, provided ultimate responsibility for all the costs rested with the Lord Chancellor.

On the occasion of this major judicial Bill, the first restructuring of the Supreme Court for more than a century, the Lord Chancellor Government would feel able to accept the rather back-handed compliment it would mean extra and when the Lord Chancellor was in his office, but it would be seen as the touchstone of that independence and integrity of Northern Ireland and the Government would be satisfied so resolutely by Bench and Bar during the testing time of recent years.

Lord Elwyn-Jones said he continued to have reservations about the proposed Bill. He thought the Minister should be the Lord Chancellor, particularly in view of his previous conviction that the independence of the judiciary had been maintained, as evidenced by the importance, was well safeguarded by the provisions of the Bill as

It surely must be in our interest to continue to talk and to try to find a way out of the present impasse based on viable proposals. In order to shoulder the heavy responsibility of administration in Rhodesia we have to have a government which can take the necessary decisions on security.

Mr Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon, L.)—Do we not have to accept the Maiba talks ended in almost total stalemate? Was there a discussion on the form of the proposed Government, leading to independence?

Are the Patriotic Front's demanding power should be handed over to them before we agree would he agree it would be totally wrong to hand over from an existing minority to a new one of which could be just as dangerous?

To these are my questions. If the administration of all the parties involved and what would the Patriotic Front's reaction be to accept the objective of handing Rhodesia into his talks. We were faced with a brutal choice between those who wanted a solution through force and those near the Patriotic Front who thought would have no alternative but to settle with the latter.

Dr Owen—I agree with the point. Although we should not envisage up to the last moment a change to a situation in which we must consider recognizing a government which and assumed power, which was a civil conflict. I have to assess that decision on the basis of how many people voted in the election and how the government was reasonably representative. The whole House would hope that situation could be avoided.

We dealt with the absolute powers of the resident commissioner under a governing constitution and under the law. The proposals will soon be in the hands of all the parties, including the Patriotic Front. We have shown some measure of agreement on the criticisms from inside and outside Rhodesia.

The Patriotic Front have issued a statement today in which they say they stand by the principle that the guarantee of the irreversibility of the transfer of power should be the Patriotic Front's liberation forces.

I do not accept that. It disagrees fundamentally with the African National Congress. I believe it will be got to be achieved by agreement between the Patriotic Front and with an interim transitional period of control of the National Council. I would have confidence in the measures taken so that they would all have a fair chance in the election of 1979. I believe that.

Mr Julius Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C)—If it is a question of

Mr Callaghan's warning on Ireland

The Opposition seemed despondent when it had been the main approach on some issues, said a Conservative Minister, at a question time.

Mr Gerald Fitz (Belfast, West, SOLP) had asked him to comment on the statement issued yesterday by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Alpo Nease) which he said, he apparently led to a breakdown in the talks between the British and the Irish Government, which had persisted for so many years.

It is still the Government's intention (he said), irrespective of the conclusions which may be arrived at by the Conservative Party, to continue to support the British institution in Northern Ireland which embraces the whole community?

Mr Callaghan—The Opposition seem to have a problem with this. It has been a national approach on all of these matters. In the case of Northern Ireland, I hope the national approach can be sustained and maintained. It has been for the last seven years. What is important in any arrangements for the future of Northern Ireland is that all the communities should have the feeling of fully sharing it, that administration or government should not be taken back to the situation before 1970.

Police pay not only answer

No one should run away with the idea that if the police were paid more, the number of offences would suddenly appear on the streets and the problem of law and order would disappear, Mr Merlyn Williams, the Home Secretary, said during a question time.

He hoped something would be done about police pay. It was undoubtedly a factor in most police force problems, under-employment.

Mr Williams, the Opposition spokesman on home affairs—He says an increase in police pay would not automatically mean more police on the beat—lack of more police is certainly resulting in fewer officers on the beat all the time.

He asked the Home Secretary expect to get the report of the Lord Edmund-Davies committee?

Mr Rice—I cannot answer. I want a report that will stand the test of time. The whole of the work of the statutory policy of a couple of years ago arrangements were made and the police had a 30 per cent increase when other people had far less.

Police lose State

However, the Government's representations so graciously made to me by Lord Belstead and others inside and outside the House, and in the courts, have been a great help to the judiciary in Northern Ireland and, I understand, the legal profession there who have made it clear they are not going to share the blame for the minister's responsibility. We have agreed to accept this responsibility and have agreed with the Secretary of State that that should be the outcome of the Belstead report.

He agreed with the view expressed in an editorial in *The Times* yesterday that in practice this issue concerned appearance more than reality. He was glad to see it was not a matter that he was not seriously supposed that the Secretary of State would take the scarcely viable opportunity the argument would give him in the scales of justice.

I would like to make it clear (he continued) that in undertaking the responsibility, as I do, I do not for the moment accept there is any blame to be placed on the Government. If the Secretary of State had the responsibility he would exercise his responsibilities objectively and with complete propriety.

two, justice will be done. The House has the fundamental six principles to which governments of both parties have agreed.

The parties in Salisbury and London have been talking. I turned down his plan and he tried to think of something new. Is it not something to be said for giving his support behind the iron fist?

If this is so, once a settlement achieved he should try to whether the Patriotic Front could possibly be reconciled to it. Could there be a more positive approach?

Dr Owen—If confronted with choice between peace and justice, think he is right and the House would choose justice. He must remember that Namibia strove for independence through its own initiative. Bishop Muzorewa's attitude towards Rhodesia was the context of his influence. The Patriotic Front for its part, Bishop Muzorewa's attitude in the last few days.

The Patriotic Front have supported progress being made within framework of the Anglo-American proposals. Mr Smith seemed accept that at least some South Africans were the route to peace that is not inconceivable to them. Both Mr Smith and South Africa could come round to thinking that this is the route to peace. Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C)—I decided to invite the Patriotic Front to Malawi and decision to invite leaders of major Mozambique to the same conference took place yesterday. There has much more sympathy with a totalitarian Marxist solution than to a solution based on racialism.

Can we assure the House, heard in mind that the cruelty which has been perpetrated by the terrorist groups against the lives of the Queen's black subjects, he did not front to leaders of the Patriotic Front to desist from terrorism? It is important to ensure that they are and cruelty from all sides, but Mr House knows that in that type war they will occur directly. I want to say that the Government have by any word encouraged the continuation of the violence.

On racism, I cannot help if I am asked to give a direct answer. If Tory MPs wish to throw this allegation at me, let false, untrue and unworthy. (Cries of "No.")

One of the problems the House does not realize sufficiently (Cries of "Yes")

Heavier sentence crown court

The Government had no intention to consider the law to send individuals, when hearing appeals from magistrates' courts, from imposing harsher sentences in cases where the appeal against summary conviction failed. Mr Eymour, Joint Minister of State, Home Office said. Such appeals, he added, would be dealt with by the Crown Court, where there are effective new trials.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) asked if the Home Secretary would introduce measures ensuring that no appeals against convictions imposed in summary courts.

Mr John (Antony, Lib-Lab)—This is in effect the position as regards appeals to the Court of Appeal. It is different. It is a complete rehearing of the case and the Crown Court can impose a sentence prescribed by law, and a matter to be decided by the court. We have a proposal to amend the law. In the rest of the country.

Mr Skinner—Surely it is a scandal that Christopher Royce, a Bradford student who appealed against a fine imposed by a magistrate's court arising out of supposed obstructing the police at Crunwick was put in jail when he appealed.

If that does not apply to other people, surely it is a scandal that people with brass who start off at a different level, surely the system works. Is it not being used as a device to get people out of matters at Crunwick?

Should not this anomaly be removed?

Mr John—There are many misconceptions about the law. The first is that the Court of Appeal deals with cases on the basis of facts already heard. An appeal to a crown court from a magistrate's court is by way of rehearing, when all the facts are given again. So it is a new trial and a new verdict.

Cost of custody

Mr Brynam John, Minister of State, Home Office, in a written reply, said: The Government estimate that in 1977-78 the average weekly cost of keeping a person in prison will be about £36, wholly comparable calculation for probation is not possible, but estimate that the current cost is about £4.

Royal Assent

The Dilemma Measure and the Archdeacon Resignation Measure received Royal Assent.

Prison Courts

(to be added) is that if the fact of the Lord Chancellor having ultimate responsibility and accountability to Parliament for the administration of justice would strengthen the role of the courts and their administration in the manner which is appropriate in the conditions of Northern Ireland. I am content to accept the responsibility.

Lord Belstead said he accepted that some of the consequential amendments might be defective and he would withdraw them. Understanding that the Government intend to return to the House that the drafting of the Bill was satisfactory and that the Government list of amendments would be introduced before the Bill completed all stages in the House.

The Lord Chancellor—I give that assurance.

The amendment was withdrawn.

The committee stage was concluded.

The Gun Barrel Proof Bill, Medical Bill, Commonwealth Development Finance Bill (Commonwealth Provisions) Bill (Consolidation) passed the third time and was read.

in other states, such as Tan
This is potentially an ex-
dangerous situation.
The Government of an Is-
solution being implemented
over a ceasefire is that it could
over into a nasty fight in so-
Africa and involve outside po-
Mr. John Henson, (Penn-
The Every spokesman of the
Conservatives is seeking to
mine a major initiative of the
Government.
Dr. Owen—I will not waiver
determination to arrive for a
peace making in Rhodesia
about the internal security
ferent methods. It does not fit
exactly follow one particular
down process.
If we are to give up the
for a ceasefire and give it
peaceful solution will
emerged would be a great
worse.
Mr. Churchill—He does not
for the British people (the
turbulence)—in his peace a
price policy. The British
want the solution of the
problem. The question is
by people resist the change.
October to the Soviet Union
this regard and they resent
recent cavewords with the
list leaders in the Medeters.
He is seriously saying it
and the British Government
only lack the internal action
in Rhodesia if it has the bless-
the terrorist leaders and
Soviet paymasters?
Dr. Owen did not reply.
The British Government had
repeated in the House of
Lord George-Brown said—Ma-
us fear that the Foreign Sec-
retary might be asked to take
position in which he is not in
feeling to work with all pe-
but showing rather excep-
priority and almost paralysed
for those who boast of their p
to kill and to conduct ac-
bloody struggle.
The Government of the
"Patriotic Front" were used
solemn way to mean only the
proclaimed guerrillas and
rather nothing anybody is di-
giving ever been applied to
Muzorewa, Mr. Sithole and
Chimure.
Lord George-Brown: Mr.
Lord State for Foreign and
Common Affairs—I cannot agree
his reservations could apply to
purpose and performance of
the Government. The P.F. is
dedicated to achieving a pea-
and orderly transition of pow-
Rhodesia than Dr. Owen.
The Government of the P.F.
Front has not a monopoly of
nationalism in regard to Rhod-

the court, which carries the
should have powers within the
limits prescribed by the law,
that offence, to impose an ex-
plicit sentence.

Mr. Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (T-
The Government of the P.F. has
decision by a past Parliament
remove from the Court of Ap-
the power to increase sen-
ences. I think that the P.F. is
appealing against conviction
cases without merit with the re-
that people with genuine merit
and loyalty should be given the
before their appeal is heard.
Mr. John—But who can it
which case does and does not it
merit? It is subjective. It se-
that everyone who is convicted
and his appeal should be suc-
cessful at his appeal.

Mr. George Rodgers (Chor-
Lab)—Will he have a special J
at this case? It has caused a ge-
neral feeling of uneasiness among
who has been sentenced to
could have his whole car
affected. Will Mr. John give a
judgment?

Mr. John—As I have said, mind
not interfere with what is
matter for a judicial deci-
sion. I certainly, therefore,
not comment on an individ-
case.

With regard to the Court
Appeal there is no proposal to
then power to increase sen-
ences. I think that the P.F. is
shure, I.)—Would he not agree if
it is contrary to the tradition
English law and English legal pr-
actice to increase sentences when
there is an appeal against con-
viction?

Judges tend to vary in their vi-
sion of what is a just sentence. I
do not risk differing sentences befo-
two different tribunals.

Mr. John—That would be mo-
accurate if it did not process
the appeal. I think that the
crown court an appeal which cer-
cains a rehearing of the case.

Judgment on birching awarded

Though he had strong views on the
use of judicial corporal punish-
ment, Mr. John was not the only
member to be asked to give a sen-
ce of birching in the Isle of Man
west left alone until the judgment
of the European Court of Human
Rights was delivered, Mr. Merly
Rees, Home Secretary, said.

He added that the European
Convention on Human Rights did
not alter the constitutional rela-
tionship between the Isle of Man
and the Isle of Man in relation to in-
ternal affairs.

Mr. Ivor Clementson (Luton, East
Lab) asked for a statement on the
constitution of the Isle of Man
punishment to the Isle of Man.

Mr. Rees—Pending the judgment of
the European Court of Human
Rights in a current case the
Government is not in a position to
consider a domestic matter for con-
sideration by the Isle of Man
Government.

Mr. Clementson—If the Isle of Man
Government will not itself end this
practice, will he migrate action to
this House to do so?

Mr. Rees—It would be better to
leave the matter to the Isle of Man
Government. It will be
eventually come back to me to
consider. There is wider issue.
It is, however, subject upon which
I have strong feelings.

Mr. Enoch Powell (South Down
Lab)—The Government has
United Kingdom's adherence to the
European Convention on Human
Rights in effect to alter the consti-
tutional relationship between the
Isle of Man and the United Kingdom
Man in respect to the internal
affairs of the Isle of Man.

Mr. Rees—I do not think it alters
it. At the end of the day it is
the Government of the Isle of Man
convention between ourselves and the
Isle of Man and what we decide in

1979

S and

December
for
color

The armed struggle in Rhodesia is likely to continue for the present because the parties to the dispute there seem unwilling to compromise. Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement he was reporting on his meeting in Malta on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with Ambassador Sir Kenneth Robinson, the United States Resident Commissioner, Lord Carver, and leaders of the Patriotic Front. Lieutenant-General Prem Chooch Representative designated by the United Nations Secretary-General, also took part in the talks.

Dr Owen said: "The purpose of my talks with the Patriotic Front was, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 415, to enter into discussions concerning the military and political aspects of the situation necessary to effect the transition to majority rule in Rhodesia. Whereas discussions on these matters have been held since September with other nationalist leaders and with the regime we had not been able to have detailed talks with the Patriotic Front prior to the Malta meeting."

"We achieved a much greater understanding of each other's position and have agreed to consider the points made and to meet again in the near future at a place to be decided."

"In all these meetings I made clear that the Ministry of Government supported by the United States Government, have never wavered in their view that the peaceful and constitutional process, Paper 6919 represent the best route to independence for Rhodesia and the surest guarantee of peace and stability."

"On the basis of these proposals we are prepared to accept responsibility for bringing the territory to a peaceful end to the hostilities and are resolutely committed to ensure that those elections would be manifestly free and independent. The acceptance of this responsibility we must have an assured and supervised ceasefire in cooperation with the United Nations Secretary-General necessary to ensure maintenance of peace and good order during the electoral process."

"The Anglo/United States initiative depends on the willingness of the parties to the dispute to compromise on their past and present positions and to allow the process of change to develop through fair and free elections, to determine their future."

"To present the necessary measure of compromise between the parties is lacking and, tragically and regretfully, it appears inevitable that the armed struggle will continue. The British Government, despite all the obvious difficulties, will continue to work with all the parties, within the framework of the Anglo/United States initiative, for a peaceful settlement."

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Knaustford, C)—"The statement asserts time only pressure to the Government is only prepared to cooperate in reaching a peaceful settlement on the basis of his Anglo-American proposals."

"His attitude appears to us intolerable. (Conservative cheers)—In view of the progress made in the talks in Salisbury where, after all, Mr Smith has acknowledged the need for universal adult suffrage, how can Dr Owen maintain such a position?"

His answers on the question of supervised elections implies that it would only be when the Patriotic Front is ready to fight that he is prepared to move towards a peaceful settlement and give a veto to the Front which is at variance with anything like equity in the matter."

"Did he press the Patriotic Front leaders to involve themselves in peaceful and orderly discussion with the Government on the future of Rhodesia? If not, why not?"

In view of the many reports to that effect, will he say whether he has been in contact with nationalist leaders in Rhodesia with a view to hindering the talks there in some way?"

Dr Owen—"On the first point about whether I am only prepared to cooperate on the basis of the Anglo-American proposals, I did not say that. I said it offered the best route to independence (Conservative shouts of "Why?")

I have constantly made clear that the talks in Salisbury have made considerable headway. For one man, one vote "was an important change in Mr Smith's position and one of the central demands in the Anglo-American proposals."

As to saying that progress can be made only when the Patriotic Front agrees, it is a fact that while the Patriotic Front has said it will need both sides to agree to a ceasefire. A ceasefire between two armies, neither of which was won by force, is extremely difficult to achieve. History shows that the need to strive to do this, however."

On whether to accept the Patriotic Front to talk to other nationalist leaders, yes and I have done so consistently and continuously. This position is not a concession to terrorism. It is one of the most serious problems facing Rhodesia and it is one reason it has always been difficult to achieve a solution."

The need to whether to consider negotiations in Salisbury, is "No." I communicated with all parties in the Geneva talks and the British Government, whether inside or outside Rhodesia. (Conservative shouts of "Why outside?")

Bishop Muzorewa denied categorically that any message from us had any influence on his decision to leave the talks. Anyone who knows him knows that he is a man of his own opinion and will make up his mind for himself."

Mr Davies—How does Dr Owen reconcile what he has said with this in his statement: "On the basis of these proposals, we are prepared to accept responsibility for bringing the territory to a peaceful end to the hostilities."... That means on the basis of these proposals, yes and on the basis of other proposals, no. How can we reconcile those statements?"

Dr Owen—"The reconciliation is easy. On the basis in the White Paper, 6919, for the first time ever, the British Government have accepted that on the basis of those proposals we would be prepared to accept the authority of the Patriotic Front, a colony we have never admitted."

The House would not wish this Government or any Government to assume responsibility for administration if we were still in a situation of armed conflict. The basis of White Paper 6919 was that there would be no ceasefire and a peaceful settlement."

I do not think the House would wish us to assume responsibility for administration until there is a ceasefire. That is the central point. It is the responsibility of this House and Government to pursue a peaceful settlement and to achieve a ceasefire. That is difficult."

Mr Winston Churchill (Stretford, C) made a remark inaudible in the Press Gallery and Dr Owen asked him to repeat it. Mr Churchill remembered how his illustrious grandfather talked.

Mr Churchill—He did not want peace at any price."

Dr Owen—"This is not peace at any price. It is peace at the price of the House of that. The House has to recognize that in the past, Foreign Secretaries have had to talk to people who were not recognized by all the parties, including Mr Smith. I believe we have reached some measure of agreement on the basis of terms inside and outside Rhodesia."

Mr Arthur Bottomley (Teesside, Middlesex, C) said he would like to persist in putting forward the Anglo-American proposals, which I think would be the best hope of securing a peaceful settlement. If the Patriotic Front is associated with a settlement of the Rhodesian problem, there can be no lasting peace."

Dr Owen—I believe progress has been made. The House tends to forget the situation a year ago. There was no agreement on one man one vote, black majority rule and so on. There has been substantial movement."

The main problem is that it is the armed struggle continues it is

hard to see a peaceful settlement with elections taking place to gain a fair measure of opinion in Rhodesia on the future Zimbabwe."

It surely must be the case that to achieve agreement, but it has to be based on viable proposals. In order to shoulder the heavy responsibility of administering the country, we have to have an assured ceasefire and assurances on security."

Mr Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon, L)—Do we not have to accept that the Malta talks ended in almost total stalemate? Was there any discussion on the future of the Patriotic Front government, leading to independence?"

Are the Patriotic Front still demanding power should be handed over to them and the election would be held? If so, would he totally wrong to hand over from an existing minority to a new one, which could be just as dangerous?"

Dr Owen—"I do not think the talks administration of all the parties involved and what would the Patriotic Front's reaction be?"

I accept the objective was to bring about a ceasefire and we were faced with a brutal choice between those who wanted a solution through force and those negotiations through peace. There was no alternative but to settle with the latter."

Dr Owen—I agree with the last point. Although we should pursue peace up to the point where it is impossible to do so, the situation in which we must consider recognizing a government which had assumed power through force and which we have to assess that decision on the basis of how many people voted in the election and whether the government was representative of the people."

The whole House would hope that situation could be avoided."

Dr Owen—To deal with the absolute powers of the resident commissioner under a governing council and a United Nations rule. These are the powers of the Government of all the parties, including Mr Smith. I believe we have reached some measure of agreement on the basis of terms inside and outside Rhodesia."

The Patriotic Front have issued a statement today in which they say that they are not the guarantor of the irreversibility of the transitional process should be the Patriotic Front's liberation struggle."

I do not accept that. It disagrees fundamentally with the Anglo-American initiative. I believe it has not to accept that the country will have an interim transitional period which is fair to all parties who should have confidence in the process. I think that that would allow all have a fair chance in the election. I will stand by that principle."

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C)—If it is a question of

peace or justice, will he make it clear we are even more concerned with bringing about justice and we have to have a ceasefire. The Patriotic Front will be the priority of the House with the fulfilment of the six principles to which governments of both parties have agreed. The Patriotic Front has agreed with Nkomo and Mr Mugabe have all turned down his plan and we have to think of something new. Is there not something to be said for putting his support behind the Patterson plan?"

If this is so, once a settlement is achieved he should try to see whether the Patriotic Front could possibly be reconciled to H.ould accept it to be a more positive approach?"

Dr Owen—I confronted with the choice between peace and justice I think he is right and the House would choose justice. He must recognize that is the only way to achieve a peaceful settlement. If you can achieve peace, you are better placed to achieve justice."

I do not agree all parties have turned down his plan. As Mr Amery said, Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Sitole have discussed the settlement inside Rhodesia within the context of the initiative. They have not accepted it. There was no Conservative interruptions. If you can achieve peace, you are better placed to achieve justice."

I do not agree all parties have turned down his plan. As Mr Amery said, Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Sitole have discussed the settlement inside Rhodesia within the context of the initiative. They have not accepted it. There was no Conservative interruptions. If you can achieve peace, you are better placed to achieve justice."

The Patriotic Front have spoken of progress in the talks. The House has been aware of the Anglo-American proposals. Mr Smith seemed to accept them at one stage. The Secretary of State said that they were the route to peace."

It is not inconceivable to think that both Mr Smith and South Africa could come round to this kind of settlement. Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C)—His decision to invite leaders of the Patriotic Front to Malta and his statement that he would meet at Mozambique to the same conference have given the impression that he has much more sympathy for the Patriotic Front than to a solution based on the rule of law."

Can he assure the House, bearing in mind that the cruelty which has been perpetrated by the terrorists in Rhodesia is mainly against the Queen's black subjects, he did call for the Patriotic Front to desist from terrorism?"

Dr Owen—I condemn atrocities and cruelty from all sides, but this is not a question of whether or not war they will occur directly. I wish this fighting to end. I have never by any word encouraged the continuation of the war."

On racism, I cannot help if he and others wish to spread that myth and if Tory MPs wish to throw their allegations at me, I will not be intimidated. (Loud Labour cheers.)

One of the problems the House does not realize sufficiently the

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If they were to deal with the Province in a proper way they must sometimes have unusual ways of dealing with it.

Mr Douglas Baird, an Opposition spokesman at Belfast (MR OXON, C), said they agreed with the theme embodied in the amendment. The elections they were discussing would be different from any other elections held there. The comparisons with other elections were not valid.

In treating Northern Ireland as abnormal and exceptional in all circumstances (he said) then we shall make it more abnormal than it already is. Traditional features will be perpetuated. Surely we should be trying to reduce what is exceptional in the situation and make it normal.

Where elections of this kind are held for the first time throughout the United Kingdom on the same day, the Government could put them under a different system in Ulster than the rest of the United Kingdom.

The amendment was rejected by 241 votes to 150—Government majority, 91.

The clause was carried by 170 votes to 86—Government majority, 84.

Number of seats. On Clause 1 (Number of representatives), Mr George Reid (East Strathgairn and Clackmannan, Scot) moved "That the number of Members of Parliament representing the number of United Kingdom representatives at the assembly from 81 to 89."

There was proposing 16 seats for Scotland, instead of eight in the Bill. He was not suggesting that the English should be given 16 seats, but that the Scots' number. He was putting down a marker for the future. There should have parity when independent.

Scotland and Denmark had populations of the same size, and the population of Scotland's representation. Southern Ireland had half the population of Scotland but would get 15 members. A million people would elect one of an Irishman or half a Dane.

Mr Brynmor Jones (Minister of Home Office), said that one European MP would represent 344,000 electors; in Scotland 473,000; in Wales 514,000; and in England 516,000. It was not fair to treat nations as nations, but not as nation states.

The amendment was rejected by 122 votes to 47—Government majority, 75.

Powers of assembly. Dr David Secombe (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), moved "New Clause

(Parliamentary approval of increasing assembly power) stated that no treaty which increases the powers of the assembly raised by the United unless it had been approved by the Parliament. Treaty any variation in the terms of any protocol or annex to any international agreement or international arrangement.

He said that the new clause fitted in with the Government's policy relating to parliamentary ratification of treaties increasing the powers of the European Assembly. MPs believed that the Government was moving towards federalism and that the powers of Commons would be increased. The House would consider the assembly without the adequate consideration in the Government.

The Parliament would be asked to consider whether it should develop into a federal body. They were determined to the rights of national Governments.

The reality of parliamentary sovereignty already existed before Royal Prerogative but its visibility was a definite drawback. The Government had to ensure that their actions were necessary and right to move constitutional procedures forward. Therefore proposing a new clause that would give statutory force to the Prerogative to negotiate an treaty.

The new clause would be a modification of any treaty so the powers of the assembly prior parliamentary approval.

Mr David Howell, for the motion (Guildford, C) said he was not sure that the Government could do the job intended, and whether it would meet some of the difficulties raised by Mr Secombe (Southern Ireland). Mr Secombe (Southern Ireland) said there was nothing which the European Assembly could gain which were not covered by the powers gained by one authority minus the expense of some other authorities. Power was taken away from the atmosphere claimed.

"The very existence of a elected European Assembly tended to reduce the power significantly of our Government was not the scrutiny Commons that would be suffered if the Government and control of the Common EEC legislation would be destroyed by such an institution. The two could not go together."

The Opposition seemed desirous of ending what had been the national approach to the courts. Mr. Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said at question time.

Mr. Gerald Fitz (Belfast, West, SOLP) had asked him to comment on the desirability of the strategy by the shadow spokesman on Northern Ireland (Mr. Alfey Neave) which, he said, had appeared to be a breakdown in the bipartisan approach which had persisted for so many years.

It is still the Government's intention (he said), irrespective of the conclusions which may be arrived at by the Joint Committee of the two Houses, to continue to pursue a just political institution in Northern Ireland which embraces the whole community.

Mr. Callaghan—The Opposition seem desirous of ending what has been a national approach on some of these matters. In the case of the Police, the Government's national approach can be sustained and maintained, as it has been for the last seven years. What is important is that the Government for the future administration of government of Northern Ireland is that all the communities should be brought fully sharing in that administration, or government, otherwise we shall be back to the situation before 1970.

Police pay not only answer

No one should run away with the idea that the police were paid more large numbers of officers would suddenly appear on the streets and the problem of law and order would be solved by Mr. Rees. Home Secretary, said during question time.

He hoped something would be done about police pay. It was undoubted that there was a police force going under strength.

The Government had no intention to amend the law to prevent crown courts, when hearing appeals from magistrates' courts, from imposing fines on agencies in cases where appeals against summary conviction failed. Mr. Brynmor Jones, Minister of State, Home Office, said. He added, "unlike those board in the Court of Appeal, were in effect new trials.

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) asked if the Home Secretary would introduce measures to ensure that appeals against conviction would result in harsher sentences being imposed in some courts.

Mr. John (Pontyfridd, Lab)—This would affect the position as regards appeals to the Court of Appeal. An appeal to a crown court, however, is different. It is a complete retrial. The court has to give an appropriate sentence in an individual case is within the limits prescribed by law, and a matter to be decided by the court. We have no proposal to amend the law in that respect.

Mr. Skinner—Surely it is a scandal that Christopher Royce, a Bradford student who appealed against a three month magistrates' court sentence arising out of supposedly obstructing the police at Crunwick, was put in jail when he appealed.

It is that does not apply to other courts, especially those used by people with brass who start off at a different level, surely the system is wrong. Is it the wrong use of deterrent against people arising out of matters at Crunwick? He removed.

Mr. John—There are many misconceptions in Mr. Skinner's question.

The first is that the Court of Appeal deals with cases on the hearing. He heard a summary appeal to a crown court from a magistrates' court is by way of rehearing, when all the facts are given again. So it is a new trial and

the court which retries the should have powers within limits prescribed by the law that offence, to impose an appropriate sentence.

Mr. Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (T.rou. C.)—Is not the case that decision by a past Parliament remove from the Court of Appeal, that the Government has resulted in too many pe appealing against conviction cases without merit with the result that the Government to their appeal have to wait too long before their appeal is heard?

Mr. John—But who can it which case does and does not merit? It is subjective. I think that the Government do not believes he should have been successful at his appeal.

Mr. George Rodgers (Chor. Lab.)—Will he have a special law for this case? It is a great deal of disturbance. The young who has been sentenced to could have his whole car taken away. Mr. John gave a undertaking?

Mr. John—As I have said, whilst do not interfere with what is matter for a judicial decision, the Government, however, do not comment on an individual case.

With regard to the Court Appeal cases, is no proposal to increase the powers of the court? Mr. Emyin Hoosen (Montgomeryshire, L.)—Would be not agree if it is contrary to the tradition of the Government to increase the power to increase sentences when there is an appeal against conviction?

Of judges tend to vary in their view of certain cases and a man who not risk differing sentences into two different tribunals.

Mr. John—It is not more accurate if it did not proceed way of a new trial—taking in the crown court an appeal which occurs a rehearing of the case.

Mr. Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary, said it had emerged from his talks with chief officers of police that there could be some tightening of the Metropolitan Police Act. It would not make much difference if it was simply considered the Public Order Act.

Mr. Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab) had asked during questions whether the Home Secretary, when the Home Secretary met the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis in 1977-78 did he discuss the National Front march in Lewisham and its aftermath.

In response, the commissioner did make no error of judgment in not applying to have that march banned. Has the Home Secretary begun his review of the legal position and will he be able to announce any further legislation to tighten up the Public Order Act?

Mr. Rees (Leeds, South, Lab) — On the Public Order Act and the wider issue caused by the amendment to it under the Race Relations Act, I think that the chief officers of police are concerned. It emerges that there could be some tightening up of that. If that is the right word. My view is that it would not make much difference. The situation is not simply considered the Public Order Act.

I have discussed the matter with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis at my regular meetings.

Have discussed it on a day-to-day basis with the Yard.

My view is that if, and it is not

Factor, the commissioner has decided to ban the march at Lewisham, in effect he was saying that all marches in the Metropolitan Police area are banned because of the dangers involved in law and order is to be maintained. If the answer is "No", in case, every time that is the answer, the march, however it was, would have to be banned.

Mr. William Whitlam, Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Penrith and the Border, C) — I would agree with him when he says there are no marches in the Metropolitan Police area by one organization and no regarding what many other organizations do at the same time.

Provocation in these matters is dangerous. The result of the law must be preserved and the law must be preserved, and that it must be preserved, and that it must be the job of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Mr. Rees — While that is the case, there is no point in having the law if there is no march in the Metropolitan Police area. The march is in the east end of London. There must be occasions when Parliament think that it would be right to ban a march. The march is a matter of law on occasions. There is a difficult judgment to make.

I am simply saying that, within the Metropolitan area a judgment must be made as to whether the march is in order with all the trouble that might accrue — it has ramifications for all marches — and the commissioner has to take that into account in making his recommendation to me.

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Debate on Privileges: Mr. Member's motion on Soviet influence in Africa. Motion on broadcasting of the 1976-77 lottery on Saturday night. 1976-77.

Tuesday: Debate on pay and conditions of companies. Motion on the Furze Progress Committee on European economic integration.

Wednesday: Bill: Urban Areas (Recreation) Bill.

Thursday: Motion: Urban Areas (Recreation) Bill.

Friday: Private Members' Bill: The Children's Bill.

Saturday: (Repossession of Dwelling) Bill; Companies, all second readings.

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Tuesday: Suppression of Terrorism Bill; second reading. Debate on the Committee on the restructure of the development.

Wednesday: Motion on North and South on the firemen's strike.

Thursday: Education (Northern Ireland) Bill. Debate on the Education (Northern Ireland) Bill. Industry and on the Northern Ireland Bill.

House of Lords

Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Chancellor, said he had decided to accept the responsibility for the new court service in Northern Ireland. He was replying to an amendment intended to have this effect in the Bill which would make the Lord Chancellor (Northern Ireland) Bill considered in committee.

Lord Belsied, moving the amendment for the Opposition, said that the Government's intention in 1972 to transfer overall responsibility for Northern Ireland court services had been shrouded by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The effect of the amendment would be to place the ultimate responsibility for the unified court system established by the Bill with the Lord Chancellor.

The person and office of the Lord Chancellor were a guarantee of the independence of the judicial system. It was an office of great and historic importance which office it was seen to uphold the independence of the courts. If the independence of the judiciary in Northern Ireland that this independence should remain, and be seen to remain, unimpaired.

Brought in increasing numbers often operating under the cloak of terrorism were forced to fall back on the only last desperate option available to them—violence against the law. The thorough provisions of this Bill would be proof against any such criticism, provided utilised as they are by the Lord Chancellor.

On the occasion of this major judgment of the House of Lords by the Supreme Court for more than 100 years, he hoped the Government would feel able to bring forward a motion relating to the amendment intended by this Bill. It would mean extra work for the Lord Chancellor and his staff, but it would underline the toughness of that independent and integrity of Northern Ireland courts which had been maintained so resolutely by Bench and Bar during the testing time of recent years.

Lord Elwyn-Jones said he continued to have reservations about the proposal that the responsible minister should be the Lord Chancellor, particularly in view of his conviction that the Independence of the Judiciary Bill would give the courts attacked fundamental importance, was well safeguarded by the provision of the Bill as

However (the went on) in view of the strong and flattering representations so graciously made to me by Lord Belsied and others inside and outside the House, I am particularly from the whole of the judiciary in Northern Ireland and, indeed, the legal profession there where I know that they are most anxious I should be the minister responsible, I have agreed to accept this responsibility and I shall do my best to carry out the duty of State that that should be the outcome of our deliberations.

He agreed with the View expressed in an editorial in *The Times* yesterday that it is precisely this issue concerned appearance more than reality. He was glad to see it seriously editorial that the Solicitor-General could take the scarcely visible opportunity the arrangement would give him in opposition of justice.

I would like to make it clear (he continued) that, regarding the responsibility, as I do. I do not for the moment accept there is any question in my suggestion whether or not the Lord Chancellor has responsibility he would exercise his responsibilities otherwise than with complete propriety.

To (he added) is that it is the Lord Chancellor's immediate responsibility and ally to Parliament for the confidence in the courts which administration, which is all important in the present circumstances. I am now content to accept stability.

Lord Belsied said that since the end of the war, no one might be better placed and he would stress the understanding that the Government would revise their original drafting of the Bill to satisfy what he felt was the plainest set of amendments introduced before the Bill reached its stages in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The amendment was accepted.

The committee stage concluded.

The **Gun Barrel Proof Bill**, **Commonwealth Education Corporation Bill** (**Congress Bill**) and **Provisions Bill** (**Constitution Bill**) were read the third time.

Though he had strong views on use of judicial corporal punishment, which he opposed, he was not in favor of birching in the Isle of Man left alone until the day of the European Court of Rights was delivered, Mr. Rogers, Home Secretary, said.

He added, "The adherence to the Convention on Human Rights is not alter the constitutional relationship between the mainland and the Isle of Man in relation to internal affairs."

Mr. J. H. Harrison (Labour Lab) asked for a statement on continued use of birching punishment in the Isle of Man.

Mr. Rogers—Pending the judgment of the European Court of Justice, the Government cannot take any steps to discontinue a domestic law under consideration by the Isle of Man Government.

Mr. Clementson—If the Isle Government will not insist on the use of the cane, will it give up this House to do so?

Mr. Rogers—It would be a free wall and see-what happens eventually come back to consider. There are wider issues. It is, however, subject upon the use of strong feelings.

Mr. Knox—Fellow (Southampton) asked the United Kingdom's adherence to European Convention on Rights in effect to alter the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man in respect to the affairs of the Isle of Man.

Mr. Kees—I do not think it is. At the end of the day, the government is responsible for its own actions and what we

to (the added) is the Lord Chancellor's personal responsibility to Parliament for the administration of justice with confidence in the administration which is all important to the citizens of Northern Ireland now content to accept stability.

Lord Belsford said that some of the members might not understand the understanding would revise that the drafting of the Bill and the Government had not intended before the Bill entered all stages in the House.

The Lord Chancellor assured.

The amendment.

The Committee.

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The Gun Barrel Provisions Bill, Commonwealth Provisions Bill and Northern Ireland Provisions Bill were read the second time and passed.

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THE ARTS

Conrad adventure yarn without the irony

David Robinson

Duellists (a)

Star (a)
on the Green
February 23)

let

Scott is not exactly a director. Thirteen years ago he made a stylish little *Boy and Bicycle*, for the Film Institute Production, and since then has had a reputation as a director of the television company. Yet—such is the magic of the British film industry—his reputation as a director has been so good that he has been asked to make a film. It is based on a story by Joseph Conrad, a story which is not a story, but a historical document. I was trying to capture in my small net... the of the Epoch—never militaristic in the long of arms, youthful, almost in the Napoleonic Wars, story, Conrad explains at the outset, tells how officers, like himself, were trying to find a way to paint the life, pursued at once through the of universal carnage. It is an original work, irrelevant to its film. In this case it is not, because it is clear that the author's mind is much more of a man of letters than of a man of letters. Lieutenant D'Hubert is a cool, handsome, ratic and (in private) a pacific officer. Little about him, says and, full Gascon, pervasively and naturally, in the other, and confirms sentiment by calling him a prelate so ironically that it can never in fact be. An excellent, through, Strangely, Lucke and Russian campaign, the

wretched D'Hubert finds himself dead by this snapping adversary. The Duellists translates the narrative into meticulous images, and makes a serviceable adventure yarn out of it. What is absent is the irony of Conrad's telling, his barbed assessments of the period romantics, his shrewd assessments of the social and psychological motives that underlie the irreconcilable conflict of the two officers.

The American leading actors Keith Carradine and Harvey Keitel explore the characters as far as they are able—but the film simplifies their case to the plain confrontation of irresistible force (the belligerent D'Hubert) and immovable object (the gentleman of honour). The consequence the film presents a static situation where the book was a developing one; and the near end ending provided is a consequently necessary simplification. The characters in the film have not the complexity to account for Conrad's point about D'Hubert's own obsession, which leads him on first to plead for the life of his adversary, then to spare it when it is in his own hands; and finally (in the last page of the printed story) to sustain it by secretly providing the livelihood of the now ruined man.

Perhaps it was a sense of this deficiency that led the film-makers unwisely to introduce into the script an unjustified and distorting element—an affair between D'Hubert and a camp follower which, though it provides the convenience of a certain sex interest, entirely negates the point of the last-act wedding of the confirmed military bachelor.

Despite a psychological subtlety, the film depends on a very simple plot. Ridley Scott is a very proficient film-maker and has a Cannes Film Festival prize (for this film) to prove it. In a way his very proficiency is a fault. The film is a very close to Conrad's and dialogue, was in a very direct way. Something, however, is lost in the process.

central idea is still the terrible impression of the confrontation of a fool and what to it is ironic mind is much more of a man of letters than of a man of letters. Lieutenant D'Hubert is a cool, handsome, ratic and (in private) a pacific officer. Little about him, says and, full Gascon, pervasively and naturally, in the other, and confirms sentiment by calling him a prelate so ironically that it can never in fact be. An excellent, through, Strangely, Lucke and Russian campaign, the

Bob Hoskins in *Down Sunnyside Lane*

coincide, but constant shakes of the stylistic and musical kaleidoscope will prevent us from regarding such things as "real". Having seen an interim version of part one, *Down Sunnyside Lane*, I can vouch for the originality and the inventiveness, if not yet absolutely for the clarity of the structure. Songs from the honey-tongued Al Bowlly act as signposts in the story, which takes Arthur off on an eventful trip in his Morris 8. He meets an (obviously "significant") aged hitch hiker with a speech impediment and a squeezebox, and he also enjoys a prostitute for 10 shillings in the back of his car. His wife, meanwhile, safe behind her sunburnt gaze, disinterestedly rejects the smooth-talking love of a beery-care salesman, and indulges instead, with her prudish married friends, in a different kind of fantasy—foxtrots with the Prince of Wales, dancing on her husband's grave.

Strong stuff, and, on the face of it, pervasively whimsical. A number of things give it



Low morale on board ship—Brian Narelle, Cal Kuniholm and Dan O'Bannon in *Dark Star*

David, the battlescapes after Goya, the still-lives (for which he has a special penchant) from American colour ads for fine port. Not a landscape but an oblique down light to gild the sides of Lorrain-like courages; and the fog machines are in constant use. There is a characteristic sequence structure, inescapable perhaps when all your training has been in 30-second dramas. Several times a lyrical passage seems all too clearly to be building up to a eulogy of country-fresh butter. Howard Blake, a film music composer I like enormously, must take his share in the blame: you find yourself weeping, in the same way, for the jingle and the product name.

An American film, *Dark Star* was made for a tiny percentage of the cost of *The Duellists* or of any other modestly budgeted commercial film, but it looks a million. Made in fact for \$60,000, it runs *Star Wars* very close as a funny, sophisticated sci-fi satire. John Carpenter, again, is not really a new director. He began *Dark Star* seven years ago and has made a subsequent feature *Assault on Precinct 13*, which was shown with great success at the London Film Festival. (Carpenter had just received a special British Film Institute award for the "excellence and promise of his first two feature films".)

The film is an exemplary deployment of its tiny resources, so ingeniously constructed that you hardly notice it alternates a single set with model work. Carpenter himself conceived, produced, directed and wrote the film, and composed the musical score. Dan O'Bannon, a fellow graduate from the Cinema Department of the University of Southern California, co-wrote it, designed it, edited it, did the special effects work and plays one of the four characters. (O'Bannon subsequently worked on the *Star Wars* special effects.) The acknowledged influences on the film include *Strangelove*, 2001, Samuel Beckett and the Soviet science-fiction epic *Solaris*, which suggested to Carpenter the idea of a future in which, far from being clinically advanced, things are already starting to fall somewhat to pieces.

"Dark Star" is the name of a space ship of the future, cruising around on a mission to seek out and destroy "unstable" planets—that is planets which do not sustain life, or otherwise endanger colonization of the universe by the United States. It's been in space 10 light years out from earth, for 20 years, in which it has had a number of events, its crew have aged only three years. Morale is poor. The captain has died after a short circuit and is suspended in a Cyrotonic freezer; the

sleeping quarters have gone wrong and they've moved into the fondlecker; the sture with the toilet paper has gone on auto-destruct. Twisly, they've adopted as a pet a reprehensible thing from outer space that looks like a beach ball with claws and has run amuck among the machinery. They've worked through their repertoire of reminiscence and practical jokes and are reduced to bickering or to complaining about one another in their video-diaries, or simply biding away in the ejector units (which turn out perilous).

While things go from bad to worse the computer continues to talk to them in the soothing tones of an air hostess and plays them country-western "for your musical enjoyment". Their bombs also talk back and a malfunctioning one is only persuaded out of premature explosion by a lengthy Cartesian dialogue which leaves it contentedly persuaded that it is God the Creator.

The message is simple enough: that even when they've conquered the universe men will still be imperfect and imperfect, stupid, quarrelsome, given to nervous instability, irrational actions and general ill behaviour. But Carpenter conveys with a fresh comic intelligence that makes it all hugely entertaining.

Another new director working on an absurdly low budget

in 12,500 for a 65-minute film), Celestino Corrado, is a Spaniard who worked with Lindsay Kemp and then went on to train at the Royal College of Art Film and Television School. *Hamlet* is an interpretative distillation of the play. The main themes, have been extracted and recombined as a drama of schizophrenia. A dual *Hamlet* (one of his aspects is also, his father's ghost) is acted by twin brothers, David, and Anthony Mayer of the RSC. Gertrude and Ophelia are both played by Helen Mirren; and both the player Queen and the player murderer are Vladek Sheybal. The curiously observed Polonius is none other than Quentin Crisp.

It is an interesting, idiosyncratic, not particularly convincing reflection on the theme. Shooting on videotape, subsequently transferred (by the most elementary process of sticking an Arriflex S 16mm camera in front of the television monitor) to film, Corrado has achieved a distinctive, rich visual texture in which the flesh of his characters is ably, literally to thaw, melt and resolve itself into a dew; and then reform itself into new shapes and significances. It is, to say the least, a film for like any other.

Corrado's strength (compared, say, with Ridley Scott) is the pure-unhindered vision of his camera style.

meat carried over into the first female chorus in praise of May.

Deputising for the originally advertised Christoph von Dohnanyi, Erich Schmidt conducted it eagerly and got splendid response from the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Singers and BBC Chorus alike in conveying the unflagging strength of the motivation behind it. Thus as Berlioz recognized, is undeniable even though characteristically disciplined. As the Druid priest, Benjamin Luxon had far the most important solo role and was from a patch of (lubious intonation) when leaping the big central chorus (discharged it gloriously. Helen Watts sounded suitably frell and tremulous in her brief contribution as an aged minor woman, and Anthony Rolfe Johnson successfully overcame a throat infection in smaller tenor solos.

Helmut Deutsch's piece covered the other instruments, but the balance was soon adjusted, and some oost, thoughtful phrasing could be heard. Plenty of feeling was evident, and one wished that it had been devoted to something of greater consequence. Heidi Litschauer was heard in a D major cello sonata of Brahms, which turned out to be an arrangement in his own hand, of the familiar Violin Sonata, Op. 78. The downward transcription results in considerable turpitude, above all in the slow movement, which could not help feeling that one of the regular cello sonatas might have been chosen instead. However, Miss Litschauer made out the best possible case for it, with a strong, dark tone.

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Joking Apart

Scarborough

Irving Wardle

Time has always been a key component in Alan Ayckbourn's comedies, but usually in the form of amazing tricks with simultaneity and compression. In his twenty-first play, *Ayckbourn* reverses the procedure with an action spanning 12 years, which shows time to be no laughing matter.

We start off with a brisk Guy Fawkes party given by Richard and Anthea for their friends and neighbours, an engagingly-dotted crew evidently drawn from stereotypical, witty, vicar and mousey wife who is scared of bangs; a heady-eyed Finn; Anthea's would-be lover who turns up throughout the play with a string of neglected girlfriends; and a pack of unseen children, one of whom brings the party prematurely to an end by relieving himself on the fireworks.

Ayckbourn can do this kind of scene standing on his head, and it duly erupts as brilliantly as the off-stage rocket, full of obvious gags that take you by surprise through cunning preparation.

The rest of the play follows up the tiny opening hints of discord, showing a widening gap between the four groups and their children, and coming down from stereotypes into individual characters who become progressively sadder the better we get to know them. Everything is implicit from the start, and the successive scenes, each separated by four years, shows time the wrecker at work.

Richard and Anthea alone are exempt from this process. Successful and generous, they keep open house for their friends, unaware of the resentment and envy they arouse. Occupying a former vicarage with the real

A Day Forever

Open Space

Ned Chaillet

Graveyard laughter has a much of hysteria to it and when it turns up in a theatre we are usually called to a black comedy. A better name would be a useful invention, but for want of fit labels, Michael Sharp's *A Day Forever* is a traditional black comedy with jokes over a coffin moments

of seriousness, but sexual revelations and complicated family relationships. For the first act Mr Sharp stirs his ingredients into a pleasantly comic mess, but his second act opts for an overdose of sobriety.

Mabel's husband, Arthur Brown, is dead, resting in a coffin in the sitting-room before his departure to the crematorium. His coffin is shortly to be covered with a tablecloth and used as a table where his last wishes can be read. Mabel, who first Mabel will begin grooming her daughter's fiancé to take Arthur's place as a drudge in her home.

June Brown provides Mabel with a vampire smile so predatory that even a less innocent boy than Carol's Ronald should be alarmed. But, like a vampire, Mabel promises as much as she threatens. Even at the risk of angering his fiancée, Ronald is soon carrying tea trays and promises to finish the redecoration that brought on Arthur's fatal heart attack. Carol (Lynne Miller) still shows signs of being grief-

vicar confined to an adjoining cottage, they give him the freedom of the garden by knocking down the fence: result, hysterics from his wife, Louise, who wants her privacy.

Louise, memorably played by Sheila Stirling, is a deadly study in the domestic tyranny of the weak: every remark, every glance a dagger directed at someone. The measure of Ayckbourn's power is that in the end you feel sympathy even for her, flustering on in a surprise light-hearted entrance, doped up to the eyeballs.

Equally pathetic is Richard's business partner, Sven, heavily pedantic, regally accepting the attentions of Olive, his doorman wife, and fanatically competitive—only to find himself hopelessly outclassed by Richard's business flair; and beating him at tennis only to discover that Richard was playing a left-handed game. The savagery of this scene, with the fat, complacent Olive transfigured into a bloodthirsty Maenad on the edge of the court, is another unerring stroke of what one must still call Ayckbourn's comic imagination.

Ayckbourn nowadays appears to achieve comedy by strenuously resisting it. The best passages in *Joking Apart* take place in bedtimes when nothing in particular is happening. As characters exchange desultory gossip the atmosphere gradually thickens with some new, unsuspected poison. But for fans of the earlier manner, there are still delectable examples of his skill with offstage events and croquet games, and simultaneous action such as the poor vicar's love declaration in the midst of Sven's match to the death.

It is a superb and chilling piece of work, performed under the author's direction by a crack company among whom I must acknowledge Alison Skilbeck's believably generous Anthea and Robert Ainslie's obsessively deliberate Sven.

stricken, but Mabel is only annoyed, if a little superstitious: "First the bugle, then Mr Brown—these things go in threes." Her hand on Ronald's thigh suggests that her anxiety will pass and when her brother is caught with her in bed with his trousers down, it seems consolation is at hand. That bird of incest does Carol no good, and it only increases Ronald's discomfort. The greater loss in the second act is Ronald, for Geoffrey Larder's impassive presence, stuck in a mourning suit two sizes too small, is a great delight. "Ronald'll keep you amused", Mabel breezily tells her nervous mother, and Mr Larder shifts slightly, inclining his eyeballs to the coffin and proceeds to be dull and gentlemanly comic. His nicely mannered distress at the stranger going on, is well countered by the presence of Keith Barron's performance as Mabel's brother, and, certainly, by Mabel.

Unfortunately, Mr Sharp lets himself be horrified at the wonderful monster he has created in Mabel and he sees to it that she is thoroughly, and soberly mortified in the second act. While the first act packs the family cupboard with cast-off skeletons from the plays of Joe Orton and Arthur Kopit, he tries to clear the air with a final secret of Arthur's: the appearance of his secret mistress of 10 years. The burden of dull sentiment: she carries finely capsize the play, despite Madhav Sharma's frequently witty production.

Parker's piece from Dennis Potter

would we be without literary, passionate, in-quickly (his word), the if sometimes obscurely Dennis Potter? (All opinions differ). Those with television sets be left from March 7, with six large weekly in the schedules for the Play for Today slot to send down a whole of Potters.

himself calls *Pennies Heaven* "a play with in six parts". To a con- degree, it seems to us that Potter says it is optimism. He is not to calling it religious. It is also, undoubtedly, rise in nostalgia. "No- is a very distant and ed form of the yearning ten" (Potter). It was during those dark when *Brimstone* and was being finally given ical coup de grace.

neric the amorous and al wanderings of their Parker, a travelling music scene with a trunete and unfortunate to believe in the songs suitcase. As the BBC's Varning Synopsis has it, goes from being just dissatisfied husband repressed wife, through of paradise with, through a De-an girl... and on at least a shadow of the at sounds bald, we may sure that the reality anything but Potter's flouring of realistic conventions is to be a freest rein yet; he is ad with the job his Piers Haggard, has ad he regards this ou- own best-never transition age to screen. There sex, there will be vic- and on one notable oc- one two will pungently



Bob Hoskins in *Down Sunnyside Lane*

coincide, but constant shakes of the stylistic and musical kaleidoscope will prevent us from regarding such things as "real". Having seen an interim version of part one, *Down Sunnyside Lane*, I can vouch for the originality and the inventiveness, if not yet absolutely for the clarity of the structure. Songs from the honey-tongued Al Bowlly act as signposts in the story, which takes Arthur off on an eventful trip in his Morris 8. He meets an (obviously "significant") aged hitch hiker with a speech impediment and a squeezebox, and he also enjoys a prostitute for 10 shillings in the back of his car. His wife, meanwhile, safe behind her sunburnt gaze, disinterestedly rejects the smooth-talking love of a beery-care salesman, and indulges instead, with her prudish married friends, in a different kind of fantasy—foxtrots with the Prince of Wales, dancing on her husband's grave.

Strong stuff, and, on the face of it, pervasively whimsical. A number of things give it

coherence, however, the most notable of which is Bob Hoskins' performance as the simultaneously romantic and suicidal hero. The contrast between private and public morality is solidly staked out. The period detail is lovingly done, and the director has used ancient cinematic devices, if not yet absolutely for the clarity of the structure. Songs from the honey-tongued Al Bowlly act as signposts in the story, which takes Arthur off on an eventful trip in his Morris 8. He meets an (obviously "significant") aged hitch hiker with a speech impediment and a squeezebox, and he also enjoys a prostitute for 10 shillings in the back of his car. His wife, meanwhile, safe behind her sunburnt gaze, disinterestedly rejects the smooth-talking love of a beery-care salesman, and indulges instead, with her prudish married friends, in a different kind of fantasy—foxtrots with the Prince of Wales, dancing on her husband's grave.

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BBC SO/Schmid

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Joan Chissell

The collector's piece in Wednesday's BBC concert was Mendelssohn's cantata, *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*. Half the world's music lovers, if asked had they ever heard it, would probably reply that they had never even heard of it. It is a natural course of events, its crew have aged only three years. Morale is poor. The captain has died after a short circuit and is suspended in a Cyrotonic freezer; the

The original setting dates from 1831—the time of the Italian "symphony", when Mendelssohn's imagination was at its keenest. The text is an

Vienna Flute Trio

Purcell Room

Max Harrison

Flute, cello and piano is not a particularly inviting combination, and it was not surprising that only two of the works in Wednesday's programme by the Vienna Flute Trio actually used all three instruments. The rest of the time was occupied with duo sonatas, and one of these is more familiar in another form. First came a trio by Beethoven, a characteristically vigorous piece, especially in its final variations, yet scarcely of musical distinction. Initially

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

John Percival

It was with an impressive account of Oberon while still a student that Mark Silver graduated into the Royal Ballet in 1973. Soon afterwards he took the role again on tour but Wednesday's performance at Covent Garden was, I think, the first since then. I imagine it may be even more nerve-racking to return to it now, knowing the difficulties, and certainly I was far more conscious of the mechanics of the technique watching this performance. Still, if it did not quite recap-

Kevin Smith

Wigmore Hall

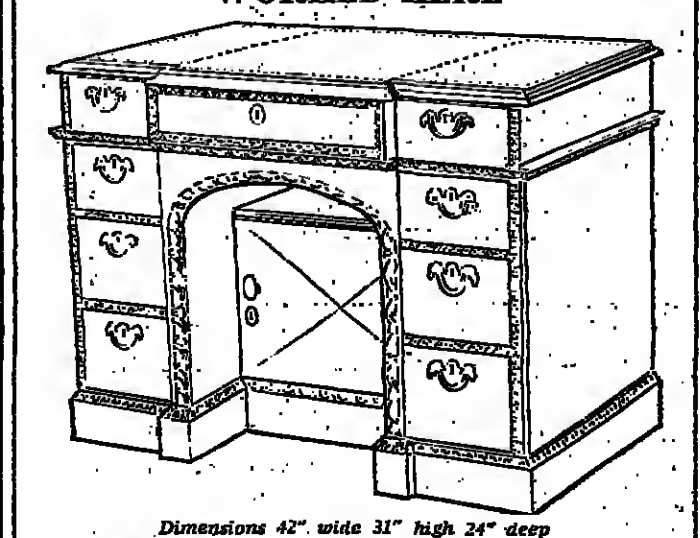
Thomas Walker

It was an interesting and challenging programme of "Songs to the Lute" that the counter tenor Kevin Smith gave on Wednesday at the Wigmore Hall. In choosing works composed over the brief span of 30 years around 1600 by English, French and Italian composers, he constructed a mosaic of contrasting traditions and broached nearly every problem of style that the turn of that century has to offer.

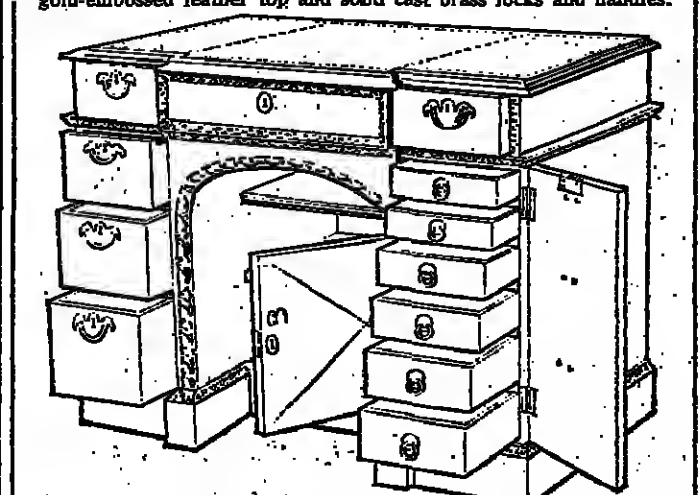
Mr Smith did not always find the solutions to the tasks he set himself easy. He has a full, penetrating voice tempered by a fair amount of operatic experience. That need not be an obstacle to singing in *camera*, but I found disappointing his lack of flexibility and failure to adjust to the Wigmore's intimacy, particularly noticeable in the top of the range. The English group, consisted of pleasant songs by Thomas Ford and Philip Rossett, pleasantly delivered. Airs by John Dowland were the acid test. I have never been sure whether such a test is failed, through the inability of the acid to corrode or the incapacity of the material to resist. I can only report in the event a notable lack of chemical reaction. In choosing arias and madrigals by the Roman-Florentine singer-composer Giulio Caccini, Mr Smith staked a somewhat unusual claim for a counter tenor, since falsettists were already becoming rare in seventeenth-century Italy. On balance, I am glad that he did. If he lacked the fire and the studied casualness, *Nobile Sprezzatura* as the Italians would have had it, he sailed through Caccini's vocal flights with more assurance and agility than I have sometimes heard.

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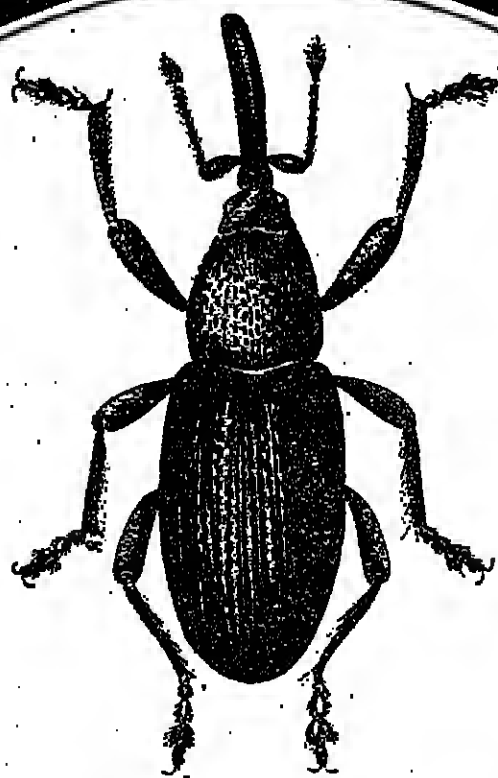
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Successful candidates are likely to have degrees in Entomology with experience in agricultural or public health entomology. Preference will be given to candidates with overseas and/or industrial experience and with linguistic ability (preferably Spanish or Portuguese).

Salaries will be fully commensurate with the qualifications, experience and job responsibilities of the successful applicants, and fringe benefits will include membership of the ICI Profit Sharing Scheme and Pension Fund. Staff Restaurants and Recreation Clubs are run in each location.

For an application form please write or telephone: Mr. H.R.A. Brown, ICI Plant Protection Division, Jealott's Hill Research Station, Bracknell, Berkshire. Telephone Bracknell 24701.



Plant Protection Division

INTERSPACE COMMUNICATIONS LTD

require a

Senior Executive/Negotiator

for their international project-financing business.

The successful applicant will be 40-55 years old with a professional qualification and knowledge of at least two Third World languages. She/he must also have experience of project feasibility studies on and supervising the implementation of development projects in the Third World, and this must include expertise in the field of oil exploration.

Applications should be sent with full curriculum vitae to Interspace Communications Limited, New Zealand House (13th Floor), 1, Market Lane, London, SW1V 4TS, before 10th February.

MIDDLE EAST APPOINTMENTS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified engineers with several years proven experience in the field of broadcast engineering to fill future vacancies in the engineering division of Dul Radio and Colour Television.

TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEER

STUDIO ENGINEERS to be responsible maintenance of all equipments within the studio complex including MMS lighting systems SHF links.

TRANSMITTER ENGINEERS to be responsible for maintenance and routine testing of VHF, UHF medium and high power transmitters ancillaries, and SHF links.

VTR ENGINEERS to be responsible for maintenance of all VTR equipment including Ampex 1200B and AVR2 machines. Knowledge of VPR1 desirable.

TELEVISION ENGINEERS to be responsible maintenance of Rank Cintel photoconductive telecines and other projectors.

SENIOR LIGHTING AND VISION CONTROL ENGINEERS to be responsible for all technical aspects of drama and light entertainment productions using MMS system.

RADIO BROADCAST ENGINEER

STUDIO ENGINEERS to be responsible for maintenance of all radio studio and outside broadcast equipments.

TRANSMITTER ENGINEERS to be responsible for maintenance and routine testing of power MW and/or high power SW transmitters and associated arrays and switching system.

RIGGER MECHANICS to be responsible maintenance of towers and masts, particularly SW aerial arrays. Experience in UHF and aerial systems and RF feeder lines desirable.

FILM PROCESSING LABORATORY

FILM PROCESSING TECHNICIANS to be responsible for maintenance of all film processing equipments including Debie Lawley and L-Max 16mm processors, chemical mixing colorimetric testing.

This young and expanding broadcasting service has been equipped with the most modern sophisticated equipments, and candidates are expected to be familiar with all aspects modern analogue and digital techniques.

Applications, which will be treated with strict confidence, should be sent accompanied by and U.K. telephone contact to:

**CHIEF ENGINEER
DUBAI RADIO AND COLOUR
TELEVISION
P.O. BOX 1695
DUBAI**

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

to arrive not later than Monday, 20th February.

Contracts will be for two years and full details conditions will be available at preliminary interviews in London in March. Engineering salaries will range from £8,000-£11,000 (sterling depending on post and experience).

SAVE THE CHILDREN

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

MALE FIELD DIRECTOR required for well established Medical Mother/Child Health team based Rowdan, 5 miles north of Sana'a. Previous overseas administrative knowledge including submission of accounts, reports, liaison Ministry officials. Knowledge of Arabic necessary. One year contract renewable. Salary plus board and lodging. Local leave with fare paid outside Yemen. Group 35-35 years.

Apply to: Overseas Personnel Officer, Save the Children Fund, 157 Clapham Road, London SW9 6ET.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

SAUDI ARABIA

required by American Company.

Overseas salary offered plus excellent condition of living potential. Must have ten years' office and experience, plus college degree or equivalent, résumé to:

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New Cold Store plant in Saudi Arabia requires Management Supervisor. Applicants should have basic knowledge of refrigeration systems and meat processing equipment. Experienced in meat with technical aptitude essential, and ability to arrange schedules, control food cold storage as well as arrange labour force.

Salary according to experience with return paid for at holiday arrangements. Suitable accommodation as required. Please apply to: N. B. Smith, Robertson, Room 3, 16 Waterloo London, S.W. 1. Telephone: 01-589 0745.

£6,000 plus appointments

SALES ENGINEER-EUROPE

CAD/CAM SYSTEMS

ized Computing Corporation, a subsidiary of the McDonnell Douglas Automation Company is expanding its business in Europe.

vacancy exists for a senior sales engineer to conduct a sales campaign throughout Europe and to maintain contact with existing customers.

Successful applicant will have experience of CAD/CAM systems from either engineering or computer viewpoint and must have proven sales ability.

Energy, self-reliance and freedom to travel are essential. Ability to converse in foreign languages will be a distinct advantage.

The successful candidate will be based at the McDonnell Douglas Corporation's European headquarters in Woking, Surrey, after a comprehensive training period with United Computer Corporation in California.

Salary is negotiable but with commission, compensation will be commensurate with the demanding requirements.

For full details of experience and qualifications to: McDonnell Douglas Corporation, 6 Goldsmith Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1LQ.

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MARKETING DIRECTOR

For

Old established London Confirming House with substantial expansion capital available

Responsibilities would include—

- (1) Development of existing and new markets.
- (2) Monitoring of clientele directly and through overseas representatives.
- (3) Assessment of new business.
- (4) The successful candidate would have—
- (i) Experience of international trade finance and procedures probably acquired in a merchant bank, confirming house or international trading company.
- (ii) The ability to mix with and assess people of varying nationalities and backgrounds.
- (iii) Willingness to travel extensively and probably have—
- (iv) Training in accounting, banking or law.
- (v) Some linguistic ability.

*Preferred age bracket: 30-45 years.

Salary would be negotiable according to experience, etc. Other benefits would include company car, non-contributory pension scheme, BUPA, etc. Replies, with curricula vitae, will be treated in strictest confidence and should be sent to—

MR. L. B. KOTZEN, DIRECTOR,
DOMINION SHIPPERS LIMITED,
17 STAMFORD STREET, LONDON, S.E.1.

New Zealand?

Planning on returning to New Zealand? There is a world of opportunity for you if you are a highly qualified professional, engineer, architect, or other skilled person with experience in the construction industry. We have several positions available to suit your qualifications and experience. We are a dynamic company, a leader in our field of management and project control with a reputation for quality speed and efficiency in the construction of major building projects. We offer above average pay and benefits and the opportunity to join a team of people with similar interests, co-ordinating and leading multi-disciplinary teams in the construction industry. The people we seek would probably be in their thirties, with a sound work history and performance record indicating achievement. Interviews, in London during February, if you would like to pursue these positions further, write to us at the address below.

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Financial Public Relations
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Thames House
22 Abchurch Lane
London EC4N 3DF

DIRECTOR OF U.K. AND EUROPEAN OPERATIONS—£12,500

for major United States publisher of reports for business and the professions. Select and train three or more part-time or full-time sales agents to contact existing subscribers and new prospects in the United Kingdom and Europe. Administer mail promotion and advertising activities. Operate office in London. Represent publisher at exhibits. Qualifications sought: A successful record of performance in previous endeavours; some knowledge and experience in the fields of mail promotion and advertising; a capacity for merchandising and public relations; linguistic skills; and a strong commitment to work diligently for the success of the business.

Please reply to Box 0603 K, The Times

MANAGING DIRECTOR

NORTH WEST

SPERRYN & CO. LTD., situated at St. Helens, a principal manufacturer of gas controls, is to appoint a Managing Director to take full responsibility for all aspects of the business and make a leading contribution to the further development of the Company.

Candidates (male or female) must have a record demonstrating conspicuous success in a profit responsible position covering all major management disciplines, and ideally have an engineering works background, and be under 45 years of age.

This modern factory employs 400 people and has a multi-million pound turnover.

The initial salary is negotiable and will not be a limiting factor.

The normal fringe benefits expected of one of the country's largest engineering groups will apply.

Applications, in the strictest confidence, to:

The Chairman,
Sperryn & Co. Ltd.,
P.O. Box No. 2,
Friar Park Road,
Wedgebury,
West Midlands
WS10 0JU.

DELTA

Chief Constable

£12,288-£13,170

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Police Officers for the post of Chief Constable of the Essex Police Force which will become vacant on 30 June 1978, on the retirement of the present Chief Constable, Sir John Nightingale, C.B.E., B.E.M., Q.P.M., O.L.B.A.

A pensionable supplement to salary of £208.68p per annum and an annual allowance in respect of travelling, subsistence and incidental expenses incurred within the area of the Police Authority will be paid. Conditions of service include rent allowance (Maximum Limit £1,773.94p per annum) and the provision of uniform.

Forms of Application and further particulars can be obtained from the Clerk of the Police Authority, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 1LX, and should be returned to reach me by 17th February 1978.

Robert W. Adcock,
Clerk of the Essex
Police Authority

Essex
County Council

AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES

MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Sydney

Curator of Conservation (Conservator)

Applications are invited for the above position.

Salary: \$A13,559 range \$A15,551 with progression to \$A18,038 subject to certain conditions.

Qualifications: Desirable—recognised tertiary qualifications in conservation.

Experience in conservation and restoration of decorative art, scientific or engineering material.

Duties: Responsible to the Director for setting up and maintaining a laboratory for the conservation of Museum objects in 'dry media'; advising the Director on environmental control in the storage and display of Museum objects; liaison with curatorial and other staff regarding conservation and restoration of Museum objects; research in the field of conservation.

Conditions: (a) Four weeks' annual leave (b) Superannuation benefits, subject to conditions (c) Long service leave (d) Subject to certain conditions the successful applicant will be eligible for:

- Payment of fares to Sydney
- Financial assistance towards cost of removal expenses
- Financial assistance towards initial accommodation expenses.

For further information and application form telephone or write to the Recruitment Section, New South Wales Government Office, 66 Strand, London, WC2N 5LZ (Tel: 01-839 6651, Extension 172) where applications close on FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1978. When telephoning or writing please quote reference 44/648.

DIRECTOR of Central Library Services and Goldsmiths' Librarian

The Senate invites applications for the post of Director of Central Library Services and Goldsmiths' Librarian which becomes vacant on 1 August 1978 on the retirement of Mr Kenneth Garside.

The Director is responsible under the Library Resources Co-ordinating Committee of the Senate for the administration of the University of London Library, the Depository Library and the Extra-Mural Library, and for the development of the Committee's other work. This Committee was set up in pursuance of the recommendations of the Report of the Committee on Library Resources of the University of London, 1971, to develop co-ordination between the many libraries of the University and such new computerised and other central services as are found to be appropriate. Applicants must have a wide experience of library and information work at a high level and possess good academic and professional qualifications. The successful candidate would be expected to warrant a salary of not less than £10,000 including London Allowance.

Further particulars available from the Personnel Officer, Senate House, Melet Street, WC1E 7HU (Tel: 01-636 8000, ext. 15), by whom applications together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be received not later than 17th March 1978.

University of London

RE-ADVERTISEMENT Previous applications will be automatically re-considered

MEDWAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Directorate of Technical Services

CHIEF COORDINATING OFFICER

Salary within £6,916 to £8,452 per annum inclusive (10 Point Salary Scale)

Essential Car User Allowance

The post, which is one of four second-tier posts in the Directorate, becomes vacant on the untimely death of the previous holder. The successful applicant will be responsible for Administration, Works, Housing, Maintenance and Building Control. Extensive management experience and an appropriate full professional qualification are essential. The previous holder of the post was nominated to Depulse for the Director.

Fringe benefits in approved cases include:

- Temporary Housing Accommodation
- 100% Removal Expenses
- Up to £200 Relocation Allowance
- Temporary Lodging allowance £10 per week up to three months

An application form, details, job description and conditions of service may be obtained from: The Chief Personnel Officer, Council Offices, Frindsbury Hill, Strood, Kent ME2 4HR Telephone: Medway 79551, ext. 22. Closing date: 3rd March 1978.

Commercial Manager

(MALE OR FEMALE)
Circa £7,500 + Car

Cardiff City Council is looking for a Commercial Manager to take charge of its abattoir. Applicants should have extensive experience within the meat industry and be able to develop the use of the magnificent facilities in Cardiff. The City abattoir operates as an E.E.C. abattoir as well as on home kill, and the Commercial Manager will be encouraged to travel extensively to acquire further business.

The salary of the Commercial Manager will be reviewed after 12 months if he is able to display evidence of a successful trading position by that time.

Applications to the City Personnel Officer, City Hall, Cardiff CF1 1ND by 14th February 1978, giving full details of experience together with a telephone number at which applicants can be contacted.

CITY OF CARDIFF

CAREER CARE GROUP

GENERAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT
£6,000-£9,000

To provide for our continuing expansion we wish to recruit a man or woman with a convincing background, of success in general employment agency management at either senior management or director level (purchase of an existing agency would be considered).

We can offer a demanding, long-term career in a commercially very successful company where you will be fully committed to high standards of social responsibility in its work.

Excellent pension scheme available.

Please write or telephone in confidence to:

MISS J. SHEPPARD, 41-43 LONDON WALL, EC2
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EXPORT AREA

SALES MANAGER

Experienced in leading in Middle East and North Africa is required by leading manufacturer of aluminium tubular strapping and hydraulic work, electronics. Approximate age 25-40 years, preferably able to speak Arabic. Excellent salary and bonus opportunities, including car and usual expenses.

Apply in confidence giving full details of career and salary required to: EXPORT SALES DIRECTOR, ACCESS EQUIPMENT LTD., MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.

Applicants may be either male or female.

BUSINESS ANALYST

MEN AND WOMEN

Are you between 25 and 45 with an eye for a better future? If you are and have practical middle management experience we would like to hear from you.

We design and install business systems all over Britain. If you can travel during the week and would like to see the results of your job effort quickly, send your curriculum vitae along with recent photograph and salary requirements and indication of your availability to:

Personnel,
P.O. Box 59,
Stevenage,
Hertfordshire SG1 2AP.

Manager/Marketing Executive

A Croxson based Company engaged in the marketing of electro-optical rangefinders worldwide, is seeking a dynamic marketing executive/manager.

Candidates, preferably in the 30 to 40 age group, should have a successful record in sales negotiation, both in the U.K. and abroad, have a sound knowledge of electronics and have the ability to co-ordinate production with both U.K. and overseas based manufacturers.

A considerable amount of travelling overseas will be involved and languages would be advantageous although not essential. Candidates with a Services background would be of interest.

A substantial salary would be offered together with a company car and interested applicants, male or female, should provide curriculum vitae to include a contact telephone number, comprehensive career details and salary progression together with relevant personnel details. Applications to:

BJORN KRISTENSEN
LASENGAGE LTD.
LENNIG HOUSE
MAYSONS AVENUE
CROYDON CR0 8XS

SALES/MARKETING MANAGER

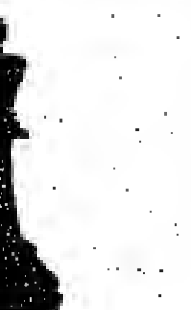
Leading manufacturers of plastic surfacing materials and semi-finished products in the South of England are seeking a Sales/Marketing Manager to develop sales to industry and trade throughout the U.K. The successful applicant, male or female, is 35 to 45 years' old, has a dynamic personality and can work hard and systematically, also able to motivate and handle a team of qualified people, is experienced in selling and marketing surfacing material. Languages an advantage.

A good opportunity for a business career, pleasant working conditions, attractive pay, pension scheme and other benefits are offered.

Interested applicants are invited to write to:

Box 0614 K, The Times

for your
next
move...



Don't miss The Times
Recruitment Dossier
appearing on
February 9th, 1978
Advertising details
one 01-278 9161

Welsh Development Agency

Assistant Controller (Engineer Services)

Salary up to £8,577 per annum

The Engineering Services Department is responsible for the supply of services to factories on the Agency's major Industrial Estates in South Wales. Bulk supplies of electricity and gas are taken from the statutory authorities, water is extracted from various sources and steam is generated in a modern gas/oil fired Central Boiler House. The Department is also responsible for operation and maintenance of sewage treatment works.

The principal duties of the post include the conservation of energy resources and the planning, designing and administration of engineering schemes associated with revenue earning services. They also include budgetary and cost control and the negotiations of agreement with tenants/suppliers for the supply of services.

The Assistant Controller will have special responsibility for ensuring the compliance of Agency Industrial Staff with requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act. The successful applicant will be a Chartered Engineer with electrical and/or mechanical background and some years experience in the supply of engineering services. Salary will be in the Grade 9 Range, £6,100 to £8,577 inclusive of supplements, together with a car allowance. Candidates should write or telephone for an application form, to be completed and returned by 15th February 1978.

Personnel Department (Ref. 184W), Welsh Development Agency, Trelorest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 5UT. Telephone: Trelorest 2666, ext. 262.

Portsmouth Polytechnic

Dean of the Regional Management Centre, Portsmouth

Applications are invited for the new post of Dean of the Regional Management Centre, Portsmouth.

The Dean will have an overall co-ordinating role in the Regional Management Centre and an executive responsibility for the Polytechnic School of Management Studies in which he/she will be assisted by a separate Head of the School of Management Studies.

Candidates should have appropriate qualifications and considerable management experience. He/she will require a comprehensive understanding of the management education needs of both the private and public sectors and have the dynamic and personal qualities to foster the co-operation of industry and the constituent colleges.

Salary scale (including current pay supplement) within the range £8,799 to £9,675.

Application forms and further particulars from Staff Officer, Portsmouth Polytechnic, Alexandra House, Museum Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2GQ, to whom completed applications should be returned by 21st February 1978. Please quote ref. L17.

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AWLESS, SECRET, UNDEFINED

was only a matter of time before a company decided to challenge in the courts the Government's use of various powers or supposed powers to force negotiators into observing wage guidelines. It is there, it seems, to be two together, namely whether a company has in fact "achieved" the guidelines and, if it has, the Government can order it to cut insurance premium rates as a punishment. The company is contesting the Government's decision should be welcomed, however, on the ground that it is high for the present situation. Having failed in an attempt to get the trades unions and Parliament to agree a voluntary incomes policy for three years, the Government has effect introduced a mandatory one by stealth and on an ad hoc basis. In doing so, it has assumed powers and taken actions which are in many ways a highly questionable kind. The sooner the courts pronounce on the matter the better.

The Government's motives in doing what it has done are not in question. It is concerned to curb the fall in the rate of inflation. It believes that a policy of this kind is necessary to that end. It is interpreting powers contained in various Acts in ways that have not been before. In particular, it is using the concept of the "national interest" as the justification for this interpretation of its discretionary powers. For example, it is using the "national interest" as a matter of granting export

guarantees under an act which was previously assumed to apply only to the promotion of exports, in order now to impose a domestic incomes policy. In general it is using the threat of the withdrawal of public sector contracts to the same end. This practice raises the wider question of whether public sector bodies do not have obligations when ordering to take the best products, at the best price. The Government must have taken legal advice, before embarking on this course. Even so, the Government would not deny that most of these interpretations of its discretionary powers are unusual. Its basic justification is that the end justifies the means. That, however, is the foundation of lawless government. It is critical for the future of constitutional government that the drift in this direction should be subjected to the closest possible scrutiny by the courts.

There are additional reasons why the present policy is objectionable. At a practical level, it is understandable that the Government was concerned to avert the possibility of an immediate wage explosion when the previous phase of its incomes policy came to an end last July. It was for this reason that it placed such importance on the preservation of the "twelve month" rule. In that phase, until the general climate of the present wage round was established, the Government entered into the policy of using extralegal psychological pressures on wage negotiators. That stage is now long past. The Government has drifted

towards a permanent incomes policy with two distinctly objectionable qualities. The first is that it is being conducted in secrecy. The second is that it lacks any definition. It is what the Government says it is and it applies to whom the Government says it applies. Such a procedure is not acceptable. The policy lacks definition in that the only statement of policy that has been discussed by the House of Commons is the original statement that economic policy this year requires the wage bill to rise by no more than an average of 10 per cent. That figure has now the status of a foundation for an incomes policy, applied as if the Government had statutory authority, but it is a mere statement, not a law. Worse, however, without discussion, the Government has decided that an average of 10 per cent shall be interpreted as a ceiling of 10 per cent in normal circumstances. That is an administrative interpretation without a shred of authority. In the circumstances, it is not surprising that the Government is conducting the exercise in the greatest secrecy. For it would not stand examination in the limelight. In a free society, however, it is intolerable that the Government should refuse to confirm, or deny the existence of, blacklists of firms against which sanctions have been threatened or employed. If the Government considers that it needs a specific and interventionist incomes policy, it has no constitutional choice but to announce its plans and then obtain Parliamentary approval for them.

PEACE SHOULD BE SOUGHT BY PEACEFUL MEANS

Dr Owen admitted yesterday that Malta talks did not produce an agreement on the Anglo-American plan for Rhodesia, or have the talks in Salisbury achieved agreement on the tactical solution. As the talks with the Patriotic Front have been postponed for two months, the Bishop Muzorewa has turned to the table in Salisbury. Mr Smith's plan may seem dead. Nothing is certain, however. The Bishop has turned against the ten-year constitutional veto conceded by the black leaders to Mr Smith as essential to persuade the whites to agree to black rule in all her respects.

Though the two sets of discussions seem to be about different settlements, there is a connexion between them. The leaders all know and watch each other carefully—perhaps keeping touch through intermediaries. Neither black front is solid. Each would like to split the other and over allies. In Salisbury the problem is to produce an agreement which will at once enable Mr Smith to get white support, it, and yet will remove the motives of the guerrillas

for continuing the fight. The Patriotic Front's retort is to proclaim in advance that any such settlement will be colonialist and will bring not peace but more war to the Africans in Rhodesia—and thus to discourage them from supporting any government emerging from it.

Though the Bishop's position in the leadership contest may affect his latest moves, his change of line accords with these considerations. He may well feel on reflection, and with an eye on Malta, that the "white blocking third" and separate racial rolls give the Patriotic Front too much political ammunition. Ultimately it may fall to him to call on the guerrillas to cease fighting the black state of Zimbabwe. As his following is believed to be the largest in Rhodesia, this consideration must weigh with him. It should weigh with the others too, for they would be lost without him. Yet the Bishop must help with Mr Smith's problem, for if the guerrillas turn their guns against a Zimbabwe led by Muzorewa and Sithole, the new black government will need the whites to keep fighting as well as farming.

The refusal of the Patriotic Front leaders, Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, supported or ordered by their military chiefs, to make significant concessions to Dr Owen and Ambassador Young, suggests they believe in victory, or some signal success, this year in the war. Dr Owen told Parliament that he foresaw the eventualities that Britain might ultimately have to recognize a regime established by force. That remark suggests, he thinks they may win the war if his plan is not accepted. It may encourage intransigence rather than the reverse. But an earlier eventuality might be the decision whether to recognize a regime established by agreement between whites and blacks in Rhodesia, which would then ask Britain for legal recognition, and the world for cooperation in ending illegal attacks on it. Dr Owen's attitude in the next weeks and months may have some influence on whether such a regime can be established, and even more influence on whether, once established, it will develop securely and in peace. He should not use it in a negative way.

IMPEDED ACCESS TO THE OMBUDSMAN

At the moment the Parliamentary Ombudsman, as he has been called, can deal with a complaint only if it is referred to him by an MP. That firms his constitutional link with Parliament, was intended to establish the authority of the office in its early days, avoids challenge to the role of the P as the proper channel of complaint for the citizen against an executive and is a safeguard against the Ombudsman being swayed by allegations that he is either irrelevant or beyond his jurisdiction. But now he could be happy to see this situation removed and proposes tentative first step that would be as far as it would be possible to go without legislation.

The number of complaints received through MPs is now running at a significantly higher level than a few years ago, but Mr Pugh points out in his annual report, published yesterday, that they are still fewer than those received by many ombudsmen even in countries with a smaller total population. He clearly believes that the

present arrangements deter a good number of people with a valid grievance. For that to be balanced there would have to be strong arguments of practice or principle in favour of the existing arrangements. The constitutional link with Parliament certainly matters a great deal. Apart from any other consideration, the Ombudsman must often depend upon the support of Parliament and public opinion if his recommendations are to be accepted. But that link does not require complaints to be channelled through MPs. What is critical is that he should always report to Parliament, and maintain the closest connections with the select committee. It would be a different matter if there was any question of depriving MPs of the right to refer complaints to the Ombudsman. They might justifiably resent that as a restriction upon their powers, but all that is suggested is an alternative avenue of complaint at a time when most MPs are not short of constituents' cases.

Even if it was necessary at

first to bolster the authority of the office by having the complaints come through MPs, that consideration can hardly still apply ten years later. There is a different procedure for the Health Service Commissioners—the other half born by Sir David—who does not seem to have undermined the standing of that office. Indeed, the public reputation of the Ombudsman is much more likely to be jeopardized by arrangements that make it seem difficult to get a complaint through to him—which can be the case if a person's MP is reluctant to pass it on. Although it is always possible to go through another MP, that can be a tedious business for someone not versed in the ways of the House of Commons.

There is the contrary consideration: that an Ombudsman might drown in his own popularity. He could be so inundated with foolish or misdirected complaints that he could not cope with the serious cases. But if he is himself prepared to take the risk why should he be stopped?

Israel's position in peace talks

From the Ambassador of Israel
Sir, The article by Dr Noah Lucas in *The Times* of February 1 leaves a great deal to be desired in terms of balance and fact. May I be permitted to make the following comments? (1) Dr Lucas writes: "Israel could have granted autonomy (to the Arabs of the West Bank) at any time during the past 10 years." Israel administered these territories since 1967 while openly menacing (and in 1973 actually attacked) Arab states while maintaining a state of belligerence. It is naive to assert that Israel could reasonably be expected to offer autonomy except within the context of a peace treaty such as is now being drawn up with a leading Arab power. (2) The "new Israeli claim for sovereignty" is actually tucked away in Prime Minister Begin's peace plan, as your contributor puts it, is no such thing. The plan (Article 24) explicitly spells out that "Israel stands by its right while aware of other claims" and therefore reserves the entire question of sovereignty in these areas "to be left open" to be subject to review after five years (Article 26). This represents a degree of flexibility hitherto not discerned in the Middle East. Mr Begin has frequently said that everything is negotiable.

(3) Mr Begin's offer to restore all of Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty, totally contradicts Dr Lucas's bland thesis that "to the present leaders of Israel the status quo resembles a state of peace." How much more radically could the status quo be upset? (4) Nor is "a word appears in the article about Israel's compelling need for security; this is not an abstract 'desideratum' but a concrete requirement, based on three decades of Arab non-recognition, total isolation, active warfare. Such a requirement for Israel is literally a matter of life or death. Dr Lucas's thesis that President Sadat needs "only to make a peace to the extent that it is necessary (sic) for him to do so" shows up the basic lack of symmetry in the question. Your contributor wants us to infer that President Sadat's initiative was really an attempt to test the degree of Israel's readiness to indulge in unilateral concessions of a tangible nature—in other words, the definition of a settlement should read an acceptance of Arab demands.

Israel (unlike Dr Lucas) would like to believe in President Sadat's intention of negotiating a peace to the mutual benefit and security of both sides in the conflict, with reciprocal concessions. In the search for common ground and understanding in which Israel and Arab nations are presently engaged, Dr Lucas's article is completely negative and destructive. Its only effect could be to revive suspicions and prejudices damaging to the fragile beginnings of mutual trust, which both sides are endeavouring to achieve. Yours sincerely, KIDUR, Ambassador, Embassy of Israel, 2 Palace Green, W5.

Control of V & A Museum

From Mr Peter Kent
Sir, As the director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, I am writing to make the museum "a centre of contemporary British creativity in design, serving manufacturing industry and promoting exports," and I am doing this in the name of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which is funded, why instead of demanding trusteeship, is Dr Roy Strong not requesting that the museum's collection be transferred to some more suitable depository for the vast and himself transferred to the British Overseas Trade Board where he can more properly direct our economic future? Yours, PETER KENT, 44 Dryden Park Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

Future of Belize

From Mrs Lena Jeger, MP for Camden, Holborn and St Pancras South
Sir, I wish to refer to a vital aspect of the Belize problem. The threat from Guatemala is made possible only because the United States is arming and training the forces of this fascist country. Belize, with less than 140,000 people, has no armed forces of her own, and it is therefore against the British troops stationed in Belize that the Guatemalans are being taught to use these things, and the answer was a shrug and a reference to policy being decided in Washington. President Carter's campaign for human rights loses all credibility when he supplies the weapons of aggression to a country which denies human rights in its own people and threatens the freedom of its neighbours. And it is within the understanding of Nato that one member country should supply arms to be used against another member?

Why does the USA do this? Is it because American companies are exploring, with optimism, for oil around the disputed territory? And why does the British Government disavow itself by even discussing handing over places and people? Fascism feeds on concessions. Belize (previously British Honduras) became of interest to us in earlier negotiations because of its timber. Now we have stripped its forests of mahogany and perhaps don't care much about its bananas and mangoes. But we must care about its people. And tell President Carter to do the same. Yours truly, LENA JEGGER, House of Commons.

Policy on immigration

From Mr John Hunt, MP for Bromley, Ravensbourne (Conservative)
Sir, May I support and applaud both the tone and content of your excellent editorial on race—February 1. As you rightly say, the present annual inflow of immigrants is "not negligible" and there is clearly still scope for some reduction in this total. In the past I have sought to reassure those of my constituents who have expressed their anxiety to me about the levels of immigration that, with the very sharp cutback in the entry of new adult males, the annual figures would automatically decline. That expectation has to some extent been nullified by the additional right now given to married men and women to bring their intended marriage partners into this country. This concession has undoubtedly resulted in a significant increase in immigration—particularly from Asia—and the commitment remains an open-ended one. Your comment that "there would be no infringement of human dignity if this right were withdrawn" will be widely endorsed, providing that some discretion remains for dealing with compassionate cases.

It is also sometimes overlooked that in January 1, 1973, new male immigrants to this country have had no automatic right to bring in their dependants to join them. They have entered this country on that understanding, and registered in *London Life* in the 18th Century, by M. Dorothy George, is on at 876,250. A not dissimilar percentage to that obtaining today.

As this black population presumably neither emigrated nor was deported, it is not surprising that quite substantially in "the fundamental British characteristics" which, as Mrs Thatcher has recently reminded us, "have done so much for the world". I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully, TREVOR HUDDLESTON, CR, 400 Commercial Road, E, January 31.

From Ms Kusoom Vadgama
Sir, With friends like Camdeon Council who need no name, I deplore their policy of "positive discrimination" announced last week. The harmful implications of such a dangerous proposal will follow and once again the anti-coloured feeling amongst the white population will have to be justified and accepted.

Racial conflict will get much worse before it gets any better. If such absurd means of enhancing racial equality are practised. Neither is the "provocative arrogance" (*The Times*, January 19) of some of the immigrants considered, nor the rescue attempt by the Home Secretary, to save us from the Tories, considered necessary. As for Camden Council's patronisation, may I request they give us the dignity of earning our own promotions and ability to fill job vacancies on merit? Yours faithfully, KUSOOM VADGAMA, 808 Finchley Road, Temple Fortune, NW11, January 30.

Towards Christian unity

From the Secretary of the Methodist Conference and others
Sir, At the end of the debate on the Anglican-Methodist Unity Scheme in Church House, Westminster, on May 3, 1972, the motion in favour of the Scheme was carried by an insufficient majority. When that vote was announced there was a small number of representatives of all the Churches. The Church leaders present said: "We believe that what has happened today affects not only the Anglicans and Methodists, but all of us for we are in the midst of fuller unity together." It was a helpful word at a difficult time. We believe that the Free Churches will have been watching with sympathetic concern the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England as expressed by the two Archbishops. We welcome Cardinal Hume's words to the General Synod: "It would be a sad day if the Churches' Unity Commission (even yours and mine) seemed to be in isolation from others. Our aim, if we seek to follow Christ's will, is not the reconciliation of two but the unity of all."

Through the work of the Churches' Unity Commission the Churches in England have been engaged in a multilateral search for the visible unity of all Christ's people, the heart of that quest is the "deep desire to establish a relationship of full communion between all the Churches. The Roman Catholic Church has indicated in its response to the Commission's Ten Propositions the reasons why at present this is for them impossible—reasons reiterated by the Cardinal in his address to the Anglican Synod in response to Dr Colgan's plea for intercommunion now between Anglicans and Roman Catholics.

The Church of England will be responding to the Ten Propositions later. We believe it would greatly assist the movement for unity if that response echoed in relation to the Free Churches the judgments about intercommunion—so courageously expressed by Dr Coggin in addressing the Roman Catholics. Yours sincerely, KENNETH G. GREET, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, ARTHUR MACARTHUR, General Secretary and Clerk of General Assembly, The United Reformed Church in England and Wales, D. S. RUSSELL, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1 Central Buildings, Westminster, SW1.

From Colonel R. J. A. Horaby
Sir, Clifford Longley's article (January 30) pinpoints the main obstacle to an eventual union of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches: that need for submis-

The Pencoat File

From Sir Charles Curran
Sir, May I offer a brief comment on the statement by Sir Harold Wilson, published in *The Times* today (February 2) about the contents of the Pencoat File, now being serialised in the *Daily Mirror*. Broadly, I can substantiate Sir Harold's account, with one major reservation, and some minor corrections of detail. The major reservation is on the question of who took the initiative in the inquiries pursued by Messrs Penrose and Courtoir. They say that Sir Harold took the initiative in calling for them. I accept that I took the initiative in introducing them to him. I did not. Penrose and Courtoir were freelance journalists who offered to BBC Television News, early in May 1976, material appearing to support Sir Harold Wilson's earlier allegation that South African interests had been active in a plan to discredit anti-apartheid politicians. They said that, having shown the material to Sir Harold, and having asked him to help them, he had been impressed by what they had discovered, and had asked for an assurance that they were working with proper authority for the BBC. Sir Harold said that in view of the importance of the subject matter of their inquiries, he wanted to have that assurance from me as Director-General. My senior editors reported these facts to me, and after some initial hesitation, because I had no knowledge of work of this sensitive political nature being previously done by Penrose or Courtoir, I agreed to see Sir Harold. Both Sir Harold and I agreed that the subject matter of the inquiry was the alleged South African involvement. Equally, we both recognised that he must not be put in the position of breaking his Privy Council obligations.

The initiative, therefore, came from Penrose and Courtoir, and both Sir Harold and I were dependent on them for the account of what each of us was saying. That, I think, accounts for the difference in our recollections of how our meeting came to be arranged.

On a minor point, the reporting of the Cheeseman affair followed, and did not precede, this meeting between Sir Harold and myself. And on the matter of the BBC's contractual discussions with Penrose or Courtoir, there was no suggestion that the BBC would wish to publish a book. I wanted the contract to pay us adequate control over the editing and content of the expenditure associated with them.

I am relying, in writing this letter, on the very full version of Sir Harold's comments which you published, and not on versions published elsewhere, which seemed to me not to reflect the views which I should expect Sir Harold to express about the episode. Yours faithfully, CHARLES CURRAN, former Director-General, of the BBC, Broadcasting House, W1, February 2.

From Mr Alan T. Wilson
Sir, "Sir Harold Wilson denies allegations in Pencoat File." We write on the instructions of our client, the Right Honourable Lord Wigg, PC, in regard to the article headed as above in today's issue of *The Times*, which refers to the reference to himself on page 5 in columns 2 and 3.

Our client strongly denies that any such conversation about bugging and whispering in the middle of Downing Street ever took place between himself and Lady Falkender. Lord Wigg made it clear in his autobiography *George Wigg* (1972) at page 316 that it was his inveterate practice to refuse to discuss confidential or delicate matters (such as security) with the Prime Minister in the presence of Mrs Williams (as she then was).

Lord Wigg does not wish to add or detract in any way to or from what he has already said in his autobiography. Yours faithfully, ALAN WILSON, Alan Wilson & Co, 199 Piccadilly, W1, February 2.

Reforming the Lords

From Lord Platt
Sir, I have no wish at this stage to enter into arguments on the reform or the abolition of the House of Lords, but I must point out the absurdity of certain point of view put forward by Mr Eri Heffer, MP (*The Times*, January 30). He seems to regard democracy as a kind of religion. If something is democratic it is *ipso facto* right. It is clear from his article that anything elected by a majority is democratic, and therefore, sacrosanct. Where do minorities stand in the religion? Would he have mus on BBC 3, for instance, chosen a majority vote? Rubbish, I Heffer, democracy is a safeguard against worse forms of government to more.

He criticises the House of Lords for being undemocratic. I do not argue that he is wrong in this. I say the Labour Party is in favour of its abolition, but was not it conclusion reached by a pure bogus vote of 624,000 to 310 (*The Times*, October 6, 1977)? I six million could not have been the meeting or even consult. They seemed to exist only on sea kind of card, carried by Mr Jo Jones.

This surely is the "negation democracy", a term used by Jones to describe the House of Lords. Nevertheless I agree with Heffer that if we are to reform House of Lords we must be very careful not to replace it by something worse. Yours faithfully, PLATT, House of Lords, January 31.

THE TIMES

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Brussels aims to reduce oil refining capacity in face of British expansion

Michael Hornsby
ussels, Feb 2

A series of measures aimed at reducing the over-capacity in the EEC's oil refining industry, including a ban on all national subsidised new plant construction until 1980, has been outlined by the Commission.

The Commission's proposals, which contain more details of its first put forward in last year, appear to run counter to British policy, which envisages refining to two-thirds of North Sea production in Britain. This is expanding refinery capacity from the present level of 136 million tons to about 150 million tons in the early 1980s.

The Government is at the moment supporting, often with aid, refinery projects more than 10,000 bps either planned or ahead include expansion refinery facilities at two locations at Milford Haven, refinery at Cromarty Firth, the partly-built Occidental refinery at Grangemouth, and a new refinery at Rosyth.

The Commission's proposals are aimed at a meeting before the end of the EEC's Energy Committee, which brings together officials from member states, and is used as a sound-board for proposals before they are formally submitted to the Council of Ministers.

The committee is to look at the proposals again on February 14, and they are expected to be presented to energy ministers on March 21.

Last March the Commission estimated that 140 million tons of surplus distillation capacity existed in the Community. Although some 82 million tons of capacity have been closed down since then the Commission considers this reduction to be "still insufficient, since surplus capacity continues to depress prices".

Special action will be required to shut down the 60 million tons or so of surplus capacity still remaining, the Commission contends. One idea would be to grant Community aid, or authorize national assistance, to workers made redundant by plant closures.

Priority should be given to shutting down the oldest plants "which are completely amortized and situated in areas where there is a high concentration of refineries and in which operating conditions do not entirely meet the standards required for environmental protection".

To discourage expansion of refinery capacity, the Commission proposes "to regard until 1980 all state aid towards building or extending distillation plant—both aid which is specific to the industry, and general aid with a regional purpose—as incompatible with the Common Market".

The Commission would also refuse to grant any further assistance from the Community's regional or social funds for the building of new plant, and would also suggest to the European Investment Bank that no more loans should be granted for this purpose.

To improve profitability in the short term the Commission proposes asking oil companies each year to undertake voluntarily not to increase refinery production by more than a given percentage over the previous year. Because of low demand, the increase in 1978 should not be more than 2 per cent.

Some member states see difficulties here, however, because most EEC refinery capacity is owned by American subsidiaries which would be likely to run into trouble from American anti-trust legislation if they co-operated in a scheme of this kind.

The Commission's proposals also set out a series of possible measures, including a system of reference prices, which could be introduced to control imports of oil products into the Community.

Provisionally, the Commission considers that imports this year should be held at the 1977 level.

'Economic principles slipping away towards a more aggressive kind of policy'

Gloomy US view of trade liberalization

By John Whitmore

The Tokyo Round may well be the last comprehensive, long-range multilateral effort at trade liberalization, according to Mr Aloisio McDonald, head of the United States delegation to the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva.

At the Foreign Affairs Club in London last night, Mr McDonald said that "we should not anticipate a further round of multilateral trade negotiations for a very long time, if ever".

Mr McDonald based his view on two main considerations. The first was the diminishing political will to pursue trade liberalization very much further. The second was the suitability of the mechanism of major multilateral negotiations.

Mr McDonald said that Europeans and Americans, long philosophically attached to liberal economic principles, seemed to be slipping away from the notion of enlightened economic liberalism towards a more or less aggressive kind of "mercantilism".

He joined Lord Hailsham, Lord Carrington and other members of the political problems in obtaining a mandate in the United States and other major trading nations today might well have been nearly insurmountable.

In future the people would have to stop thinking in terms of great leap forwards and turn to more manageable approaches that permitted a continuing series of smaller, selective steps at a time.

Great reliance would have to be placed on the updated General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade mechanisms established by the codes and the consultation and dispute settlement procedures negotiated in the present round of Geneva talks.

At the same time, trade mechanisms would have to introduce much greater flexibility and discipline into the system than has existed previously. Present GATT rules were rigid, cumbersome and slow and there was considerable incentive for many countries to ignore them unless threatened by direct economic retaliation by one of the larger powers.

In addition, procedures were needed to allow adoption of moderate measures in narrowly targeted areas which, without disrupting major segments of the economy, might have a cumulatively significant impact that reinforced the market system.

Mr Stern is presented with £20m petition

By Ray Maughan

Mr William Stern, whose property empire crashed almost four years ago with debts of around £170m, has been presented with a £20m petition claiming £20m.

The petition, believed to be the largest ever presented by a single creditor, is from the merchant banking group, Keyser Ullman, and the hearing has been fixed for April 11.

It will be held in private before a registrar at the London Bankruptcy Court.

After a long legal delay, the bank sued Mr Stern in the High Court last November for £1.5m in respect of his personal guarantee which was given in June 1973, for cash due or owing by one of Mr Stern's companies, Magnum Hotel (Manchester).

The purpose of that action, Mr Derek Wilde, Keyser Ullman chairman, said, was to obtain a judgment on the claim after which the merchant bank could proceed with its outstanding advances. The sum of £1.5m is included in the £20m petition.

Having obtained an act of bankruptcy, under the condition that a debt which was due has not been repaid, the bank will now be able to see whether Mr Stern "has any assets at all. We want to be certain that there is no money there", Mr Wilde said.

The Stern group was at one time worth £200m and folded in 1974 with a long list of secured creditors which included National Westminster, which has secured like £30m at stake, the Crown Agents which were due £40m, and 30 other institutions.

A debt repayment moratorium, set to ensure an orderly liquidation of Stern's assets, is in force until June this year, but certain transactions involving the sale of flats have caused disquiet among some of the group's creditors.

The City of London is currently investigating these complaints.

American named for top job at Jaguar Rover Triumph company

By Clifford Webb

An American, Mr William Pratt Thompson, will today be named managing director designate of British Leyland's newly created Jaguar Rover Triumph specialist car company.

Mr Michael Edwards, the Leyland chairman, will make the announcement to 2,000 distributors and dealers gathered in the Wembley conference centre to hear his reorganization plans.

Mr Thompson, who is in his mid forties, is deputy managing director of Powdermilk Holdings, the Coventry-based electrical components manufacturers. So far as is known, he has no motor industry experience.

Mr Thompson was not available to comment last night, but associates said he had lived in this country for several years and was a marketing expert of considerable experience. He joined Leyland three years ago from AMF Inc. to develop their overseas markets.

At his press conference on Wednesday, Mr Edwards declared to name the new head of JRT. However, he said the new chief had "a considerable marketing experience in the United States and Japan, both areas where the company will be making renewed sales drives."

The last American to hold a senior position in British Leyland made an impact. He was Mr Wilmer Paradise, a former Ford of Italy executive who became sales director of Austin Morris. He left the company some four years ago after a reported clash with Lord Stokes, chief executive.

Business Diary, page 19

Finding the right route for travel agents

Proposals to set up a government register of travel agents which could "replace the closed shop" aspects of the Association of British Travel Agents, are to be discussed at a meeting between the Department of Trade and the association next week.

A travel agency register is only one aspect of government concern about the regulation of all types of trader including deposits from the public.

Priority has been given to the travel industry because ABTA's rules are under fire from restrictive practices legislation as they forbid trade with non-members as well as protecting consumers.

The only concession gained by ABTA, after extensive meetings with consumer protection authorities was that the Office of Fair Trading agreed to allow a respite until at least the end of this year before starting proceedings in the restrictive practices courts.

Meanwhile, the association's case was weakened by the collapse last summer of the Overseas Relatives Remission Club leaving debts mostly to prospective long-distance travellers of around £50,000.

The company was neither a member of ABTA nor licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority so the public was left unprotected.

It is in order to plug loopholes such as this as well as, if necessary, to regulate the ABTA scheme, that the possibility of a statutory register is being examined.

One proposal is that the CAA's jurisdiction could be extended to include travel agents. At present only operators of air travel under existing legislation. But a considerable expansion in staff and other resources would be needed to enable it to police effectively the 4,000 or so retail travel agents.

A replacement of the ABTA scheme would require a scrutiny of financial accounts as well as collection of a "bond" to protect consumers in case of business failure.

One of the main arguments against a statutory register is that it would be costly and bureaucratic to set up.

Patricia Tisdall

ax test for London arm US bank

Christopher Wilkins

A London subsidiary of the Midland Bank of New York is to be treated as a new entity in the long-running tax dispute between a number of national banks and the Revenue over the tax treatment of profits arising from foreign exchange rate fluctuations.

Midland Ltd is to be treated as a new entity of the General Commissioners of the Isle of Man Revenue as a formal assessment by inspectors. The Revenue tried to regard the company as a branch of the parent bank and a date for a case has been allotted for mid-May.

Potential liability of the Midland is to be treated as a new entity of the General Commissioners of the Isle of Man Revenue as a formal assessment by inspectors. The Revenue tried to regard the company as a branch of the parent bank and a date for a case has been allotted for mid-May.

Increase of \$311m in UK reserves

By Our Financial Correspondent

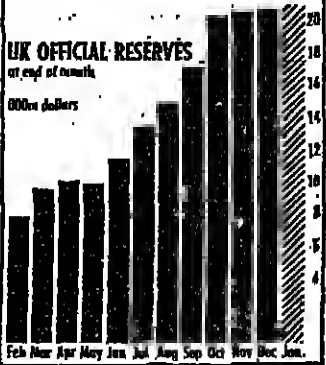
New overseas borrowing of \$73m by the public sector and "smoothing" operations in the foreign exchange market by the Bank of England led to an increase of \$311m (or £159m) in Britain's official reserves last month to \$20,868m.

Although the rise in the reserves was somewhat larger than in the previous two months of the sterling "float", this was mainly as a result of the increase in public sector borrowing from overseas—an item that has been negative to the time \$94m in December.

After stripping out the impact of this official borrowing—largely by public corporations from the European Investment Bank—Bank of England intervention in the foreign exchange market appears to have been on a slightly lower scale than in December.

The main intervention by the Bank probably came early in the month at a time when the pound was gyrating wildly. Having started the month at \$1.9710, the pound surged to \$1.9950 as the dollar came under heavy pressure. At the end of the month the pound stopped at \$1.9520.

By contrast, the reserves may well show a fall in February. In pursuit of the Government's policy to make use of the strong position of sterling and the size of the reserves to repay or reschedule overseas borrowings by the public sector, the Electricity Council is due to repay \$500m of overseas debt this month. This debt had originally been due for repayment in 1982 and will now be largely refinanced domestically.



Uncertain future for Leyland staff

By Our Midland Industrial Correspondent

The future of 650 British Leyland staff who are in the balance after Mr Michael Edwards' decision to dismember Leyland International, the subsidiary which handles all car and commercial vehicle exports.

These responsibilities will be restored to the newly created car companies—Austin Morris and Jaguar Rover Triumph—and also to Leyland Vehicles, the new name for Leyland Truck and Bus.

A small number of staff will be retained to control overseas operations, but the majority will depend on a number of factors, including willingness to move from the present International offices in London and Coventry to the still to be announced new headquarters of the car companies or Leyland in Lancashire for commercial vehicles.

The "lucky ones" would seem to be the 300 or so employed in International's European division headed by Mr Bert Lawrence, and housed in an office block near the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre.

Austin Morris will probably choose Longbridge as its new headquarters, and JRT will return to Solihull. Both are within easy commuting distance of their present homes.

But there will still have to be redundancies to avoid duplicating work already carried on in the existing sales and marketing operations of Leyland Cars and Leyland Truck and Bus.

Two important meetings take place today, Mr Edwards will be addressing 2,000 of his distributors and dealers at Wembley Conference Centre. It will be the first time that the whole network has gathered in one place.

He will appeal to them to remain loyal and not desert to other franchises, despite falling sales. He will assure them that he is giving absolute priority to the restoration of the company's battered image.

Leyland Cars' commercial shopkeepers' committee, the unofficial but powerful shopfloor policy-making body, will meet in Birmingham to consider Mr Edwards' survival plan.

Deals in Allied Breweries shares under SE scrutiny

By Our Financial Staff

Brokers who deal in Allied Breweries' shares on January 19 have been asked by the Stock Exchange monitoring committee to furnish details of the transactions carried out that day.

The inquiry stems from the rise in Allied shares before the Price Commission announced at 2.30 that afternoon that the brewery group had been granted permission to lift its prices by 2p per pint. The timing of that announcement—has already stirred City controversy and a Stock Exchange request for details since it fell within trading hours rather than the usual time of 4.30 pm.

The Stock Exchange stressed yesterday that although Allied had climbed 3p to 86p on January 19, its request for information always took place once the monitoring committee had discovered an abnormal price movement.

A decision about whether to go ahead with a full investigation will rest on the answers provided by the relevant brokers.

At the moment, dealing in Lankro Chemicals Group is the only subject of a full Stock Exchange investigation.

Pay fears give shares worst day for months

By Alison Mitchell

Pay worries continued to trouble stock markets yesterday and many shares had their worst day for months.

The FT Ordinary Share Index tumbled throughout the session and, despite talk of buyers returning in the late afternoon, closed at 460.5 its lowest level of the day, and almost touching the mid-November low of 455.

The situation was not helped by the gloomy predictions of the chartists who expect the index to fall to 400.

Gifts were also on the slide with the top of the main index of 460.5, down from 465.00 on the previous day.

ports inflation cover extended

Michael Correspondent

Government plans to extend its cost escalation for export contracts, but coupled with tighter measures so that competing approval are not pay guidelines.

According to yesterday Mr Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr John Birt, the extension will further 12 months from March.

Some, operated through the Credits Guarantee Fund, was introduced as a provision to provide export credit goods consisting of a number of more than 10, with cover against inflation on fixed price contracts.

After the introduction of the 10 per cent guideline last July, the Government has a black list of companies which have exceeded the pay code which will be denied export credit guarantees. Two already have been refused credit.

John Huxley writes: Department of Trade officials and legal advisers were yesterday considering the precise form of sanctions to be taken against Sun Alliance which it claims has breached government pay guidelines. A notice to the company to restrict premiums is expected from the department within the next couple of days.

Sun Alliance, which last October decided to make its pension scheme for 7,800 staff non-contributory and granted a 9.9 per cent pay rise, remain intransigent.

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) has been between 200 and 300 at Sun Alliance (staff association has negotiating rights), also said that if the company were to give in to government pressure it would take action against the company, the Department of Trade or both.

The Department would offer no comment on the suggestion that the Government may be considering an instruction to the Bank of England to cut Sun Alliance's access to foreign exchange.

Leading article, page 15

Finance Bill may include 3 schemes

Continued from page 1

growth and capital gains on disposal would be charged on the basis of full market value at acquisition.

Finally a scheme is proposed which would involve an employee buying shares on favourable terms although he would have to find the money himself, possibly with the help of loans from the company.

Yesterday Mr Padoe made it clear that these provisions would not have appeared for the Lib-Lab pact.

"The Labour Party has never been in the least interested in profit-sharing and the Conservative Party has only been interested provided the profits were shared among the right people—meaning top people", he said.

Trade unionists saw profit-sharing as undermining the hierarchical authority, he said.

The greatest failure of British capitalism had been its failure to distribute industrial wealth. He pointed out that only 3.8 per cent of British people own shares against 25 per cent in the United States.

"The stock answer of British capitalists to this charge is that industry should be run by shareholders, not by pension funds. There is like saying that in Russia the peasants own the land. It only proves that British capitalists are as collectivized as British socialists", he said.

If the Liberal scheme really catches on it will not be long before the employers will own the lion's share of many British companies. How terrible! Not for Liberals it won't be."



Mr John Padoe yesterday, a great day for the British economy.

Mr Padoe admitted that the proposals gave tax benefits to employees in the private sector that would not be available to those in the nationalized industries but he hoped that public employees would "soon be knocking at the door demanding a piece of the action".

For the purposes of any pay restraint legislation he said the Liberals regarded the schemes as "self-financing productivity deals".

Although he did acknowledge that the provisions could be cancelled by future legislation.

Commenting on the proposals last night a "Confederation of British Industry" spokesman said they welcomed the idea of tax-incentives for employee share ownership and had said so in the Budget document last year.

The CBI would be studying the proposals more closely but one factor would be that any tax incentives under this scheme might offset possible tax reductions for the community as a whole.

Business letters, page 18
Financial Editor, and
Fair shares, page 19

the markets moved

The Times index: 193.59-2.91
The FT index: 460.5-9.3

THE POUND		Bank	
		buys	sells
Australia \$	1.70	1.71	1.71
Austria Sch	31.00	29.00	
Belgium Fr	66.00	63.00	
Canada \$	7.22	7.16	
Denmark Kr	11.48	11.08	
Finland Mk	8.05	7.75	
France Fr	9.57	9.25	
Germany Dm	4.30	4.08	
Greece Dr	77.06	73.50	
Hong Kong \$	175.00	769.00	
Italy Lr	490.00	465.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.59	4.37	
Norway Kr	10.51	9.95	
Portugal Esc	80.00	80.00	
S Africa Rd	2.00	1.85	
Spain Pes	166.25	159.25	
Sweden Kr	9.35	9.00	
Switzerland Fr	4.00	3.82	
Yugoslavia Dnr	40.00	37.50	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by the Bank of England. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency.

Gold		Silver	
Gold lost \$1.50 an ounce to \$174.625			
SDR's was 1.21488, while SDR-E was 0.623308			
Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1397.8 (previous 1399.8)			

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION
To the Holders of

CYANAMID INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

5% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1980

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of September 1, 1965 providing for the above Debentures, \$466,000 aggregate principal amount of said Debentures have been selected by lot for redemption on March 1, 1978, through operation of the Sinking Fund, at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date. The serial numbers of the Debentures selected for redemption are as follows:

DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH									
345	1101	1470	2808	3284	6541	7251	7828	8289	36281
102	1185	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
104	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
106	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
108	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
110	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
112	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
114	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
116	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
118	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
120	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
122	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
124	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
126	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
128	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
130	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
132	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
134	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
136	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
138	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
140	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
142	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
144	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
146	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
148	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
150	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
152	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
154	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
156	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
158	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
160	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
162	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
164	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
166	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
168	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
170	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
172	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
174	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
176	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
178	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
180	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
182	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
184	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
186	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
188	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323
190	1207	2443	4127	6253	6255	7271	7287	8524	10323

PAYE system was 'near to collapse'

By Margaret Stowe

Pay As You Earn, or PAYE, the main component of our tax gathering system, was near to collapse last year because of the numerous changes in taxation during the period.

The report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the year to end-March 1977, published yesterday, baldly states that 1977 "tested the PAYE machine to its operational limit".

The Commissioners defend PAYE, which they say is efficient and collects nearly 99 per cent of the tax due within six months of the end of the tax year, and what is more, gets it right for five out of six taxpayers.

On the other hand, the report acknowledges that this sophisticated and complicated system is still, except for Scotland, manually operated. Revenue codings, notification and assessments are done by "hand, pen, typewriter and files".

Although cheap to the taxpayer, it is a labour-intensive system and an increasing expense to both the Revenue and employers.

It is also inflexible and "simply cannot cope with some problems" such as taxing short-term social security benefits or implementing tax increases in the second half of the fiscal year.

To deal with the Budget and other tax changes last year, the Inland Revenue staff worked put in about 2,500,000 hours' overtime.

The cost of collection in 1976-77 rose by £47.8m to £402.2m, and the revenue collected over £20,000m for the first time.

Tapered capital gains tax urged

By Our Financial Staff

Reduction of the capital gains tax burden on business rather than a protracted debate on the tapering-versus-indexation issue is the main theme of the Institute of Directors' reply to the Inland Revenue's proposals for tax reforms.

Although the institute argues that the overriding need is to eliminate inflation from capital gains, it expresses a preference for the tapering approach. A short taper of three years is seen as the best means of encouraging investment and easing the effects of inflation on capital gains.

Three quarters of top managers would go abroad to improve pay, survey says

By Rodney Cowton

Nearly three-quarters of senior managers say they would consider taking a job abroad, according to a survey which gives a stark picture of the sense of financial hardship and dissatisfaction which top executives are expressing.

The survey, by Opinion Research Centre, was released yesterday. A year ago the centre published one dealing with the attitudes of management generally. Yesterday's survey was designed to supplement this

Brokers predict Budget stimulus may lead to 15pc monetary growth

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

If the Government injects as much as £2,500m into the economy as a result of this spring's Budget, growth in the money supply in the next financial year could be in excess of 15 per cent, according to stockbrokers Phillips & Drew in the February edition of the firm's *Economic Forecasts*.

This, the brokers argue, would result largely from the effect of two factors—a strong rise in bank lending (£5,000m) and constraints on the ability of the authorities to maintain sales of public sector debt to the resident non-bank sector on anything like the scale seen in 1977-78.

To keep money supply growth in line with a repeat 13 per cent ceiling next year, the brokers suggest that the Government would have to limit the expansion of bank lending to £4,000m. This would

have to be done by the reintroduction of controls over bank lending in the form of the supplementary special deposit scheme—the "corset".

Phillips & Drew believe that the Government, faced by the choice of caution in applying fiscal stimulus and putting its monetary policies at risk, will opt to take the monetary risk for the sake of a significant fiscal stimulus.

Heard Govett also believes the Government may be forced to reintroduce the banking "corset" next year. In their latest review of the gilt-edged market, the brokers suggest that the range for sterling M3 growth in the next financial year should be cut to between 8 and 12 per cent. Brokers de Zoeta and Bevan, in their *Monthly Economic Survey* see further signs that economic activity is already reviving swiftly, and that it might be prudent to such an early stage of the economic cycle to limit the amount of refinancing pressures.

The brokers add that since monetary targets are set in an attempt to improve inflationary expectations, if not the actual inflation rate it would prudent to keep the rate of monetary expansion within the top rate of growth (13 per cent) set for the current year, and preferably below a lower target ceiling.

There is a real risk that economic activity will be stimulated too sharply and too soon, with resulting pressures on monetary control the balance of payments and sterling, de Zoeta points out.

These three brokers' circulars reflect a growing consensus in the City that an over-expansionary fiscal stance by the Government will either put monetary control at risk or lead to a situation in which monetary control may neutralize part of the fiscal stimulus.

UK subsidiary to spend £30m on doubling output at Scottish plant

Cummins develops fuel-saving engine

The British subsidiary of Cummins, the American group which is the world's largest independent manufacturer of diesel engines for heavy trucks, yesterday reported that it had developed a "new generation" engine with better fuel economy than any of its competitors.

The new engine, which goes on sale immediately, is already attracting the attention of its rivals, Rolls-Royce, Gardner and Gebhardt, and Manchester, because it would appear to put an end to the traditional weakness of Cummins—the thirstiness of their engines.

Reliability of the big six-cylinder made at Shorts in Scotland has already won it market leadership with more than 20 per cent of the British 28-ton and over truck sector. And this despite the fact that it is not fitted to any of the volume-selling continental trucks which account for one in two of the "heavies" on our roads.

Now Cummins is claiming a 10 per cent improvement in fuel consumption for the E290, a turbo-charged and mud-modified version of its naturally aspirated six-cylinder, which would seem to put it level with the legendary Gardner. Gardner's remarkable fuel economy has been the target for rival

manufacturers for nearly 20 years.

Cummins is so confident it has a winner that it is spending £30m to double output at Shorts and aiming for 30 per cent of the British market by the early 1980s.

Yesterday's announcement comes at a time when big changes are taking place in the diesel engine industry. Boosted by substantial military contracts Rolls-Royce is expanding its Shrewsbury plant and Gardner, for so long a family firm, has recently been acquired by Hawker Siddeley.

Hawker Siddeley has access to the engineering knowhow and finances necessary to solve Gardner's problem, its inability to meet competition.

The big target for all three is the Continent. Mr Joe Patrick, vice-president of Cummins Europe, said: "The Shorts expansion gives us for the first time the ability to increase our United Kingdom business and at the same time push into Europe."

Mr Bob Campbell, vice-president marketing, said: "The continental truck manufacturers are facing increasingly unfavourable economies associated with low volume production."

Clifford Webb

6pc fall in timber price cuts building cost

By John Huxley

For the first time in five years, housebuilding costs are falling, according to figures published yesterday by the *Building Housing Cost Index*. In January an overall fall of 0.3 per cent was recorded, largely because of a 6 per cent drop in the price of timber.

In the three months November to January building costs still rose by 0.6 per cent, equal to 2.4 per cent a year. In the same period 12 months ago, however, the index was rising at a rate of 10 per cent a year.

Although housebuilding costs have been rising more slowly recently, last month's figures may have been distorted by the timber returns. Most timber is imported and the January figure, which would reflect ordering several months ago, will have been improved by the appreciation of sterling.

Last month's index reflects a 6.4 per cent rise in electricity prices, and it is likely that the coming month's labour rather than materials will play an increasing part in determining house costs.

The present agreement with building workers is due for renewal in June.

Houses gained 8pc in market value last year

Figures released by the Department of the Environment in conjunction with the Building Societies Association show that house prices rose by 8 per cent in 1977.

The average price of dwellings on which new mortgages were approved in the last quarter of the year was £14,370. For new homes the average price in the fourth quarter of the year was £15,450, 3 per cent higher than in the previous quarter and 11.5 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The average price for other than new homes was £14,170, about 11 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 1977, and 7.5 per cent above a year ago.

Business appointments

Sir Alex Page joins board of J. Lyons

Sir Alex Page, chairman of Metal Box, has been made a non-executive director of J. Lyons.

Mr E. A. Allan has been appointed chief manager, European division, J. Lyons Bank International and a director of J. Lyons Bank International (France) and J. Lyons Bank International (Belgium).

Mr David Evans becomes managing director of Scaffolding (Great Britain).

Mr G. W. Brown and Mr L. E. Slater have been appointed directors of Unilever Group.

Mr D. T. Jordan has been promoted from director to general manager to managing director of Lesser International.

Mr J. D. W. Field becomes a non-executive director of Hoskins and Zorot.

Mr Clive Dodson has been made managing director of A.P.V. Kestrel and Lennox Foundry.

Mr Frank DuBois and Mr Rodney Wright have been appointed executive directors of First International Bankshares.

Mr Hugh McNamee has been made director of Electric and General Investment.

Lord Layton, a former executive member of the British Steel Corporation and managing director of Steel Co of Wales, has joined the board of Welford Steel Holdings.

Mr W. Fox is to be made a director of French Kier Holdings.

Advertisement awards—The judges of *The Times* award for the best advertisement of a company's results to appear last year included Mr Richard Blackburn and Mr Edward Myatt. They are members of the Ross & Co and Intel Financial Services respectively, and not of the companies mentioned in later editions yesterday.

Debenhams disposal—The Debenhams department store group, purchased by Tesco at Bradford, is not Bedford as stated on Wednesday.

Hopes rise of Speke plant strike settlement

By R. W. Shakespeare

As a result of Wednesday's meeting between Mr Michael Edwards, chairman of British Leyland, and 650 of the company's shop stewards, hopes rose on Merseyside yesterday that fresh moves planned for next week may lead to a settlement of the 15-week-old strike that has shut down the Triumph car plant.

Stewards from the factory at Speke, Liverpool, will meet on Monday, and it is possible they will call a mass meeting of the 2,000 strikers on Wednesday.

The Triumph stewards told management representatives in talks last week that they would consider calling a mass meeting—the first since the strike began on November 1.

However, they made it clear that this meeting would be held primarily to "report back" on the details of Mr Edwards' re-organization plan that he gave to the conference of shop stewards in Leamington on Wednesday.

They would give no commitment on whether or not a vote would be taken on company proposals for a return to work at Speke.

Now it appears that this attitude may be softening somewhat.

The shutdown at Speke where 6,000 workers are employed, and the lay-off of a further 2,000 Triumph assembly workers at Coventry, has cost Leyland lost production of more than £30m worth of TR7 and Delonix cars.

Underlying the cautious optimism that an end of the strike may be in sight is the fear, among many Merseyside car workers that Mr Edwards' plans for Leyland's car making operations may still include either the closure of the Speke plant or a complete change in its function.

Successful bidders at IMF gold sale

Washington, Feb. 2.—The International Monetary Fund announced today that 17 bidders were successful at Wednesday's auction when it sold \$24,800 oz of gold at a common price of \$175 an ounce.

Gold was awarded to Alexander Trust Co of Zurich, J. Aron and Co of New York, Bank Len of Zurich, and Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto.

Among other recipients were Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de la Dredoir Bank (Dresdner Bank International of Luxembourg); Dresdner Bank and Deutsche Bank, both of Frankfurt; and Dresdner Bank (South East Asia) of Singapore.

Other successful bidders included Johnson, Matthey, Bankers Ltd of London, Monex International of Newport Beach, California, Samuel Montagu and Co of London, and Philip Brothers division of Engelhard Minerals and Chemical Corporation of New York.

Reuters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pension schemes already a form of profit-sharing

From Mr D. C. Damant

Sir, In your edition of January 25, George Copeman argues strongly for profit-sharing schemes in British industry. His approach is also supported by the Liberal Party which is pressing this policy very strongly on the present government.

The difficulties of this type of proposal are well-known: the exclusion of those in the nationalized industries or in loss-making organizations; the importance of diversifying one's savings and not saving in the same company as one's employment; the further levy on an inadequate profitability; the necessity for some restriction on the sale of the employee's shares; and so on. But all these difficulties are avoided by an arrangement which is already in existence, which is of enormous size, and is growing rapidly: that is of course the present scheme of company pensions.

The recent figures (from the ICS Research Centre) show that pension funds are comparable in value to some 40 per cent of the quoted equity capital of British industry with new money of the order of 50 per cent of annual profits. These funds arise throughout industry, whether nationalized or private, they are channelled through diverse operations to diverse investments, providing an appropriate spread of risk for the pensioner; and they give him a large and growing stake in the profitability of industry as a whole.

Of course, pension funds do not provide a direct connection between the employee and the profitability of the company he works for. There is no reason why schemes such as those proposed by Mr Copeman should not go forward. But the amounts of money involved will remain

insignificant compared with those in the pension fund industry, which already bears a strong resemblance to the ideal, nationally organized schemes for employee participation in profits which many countries abroad have debated so fruitlessly for so long.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. DAMANT,
Investment Research,
28 Pantons Street,
Cambridge CB2 1DH,
February 1.

From Mr A. Brett

Sir, George Copeman's article of January 25 deserves attention if only because of the claim for a self-adjusting mechanism in the bonus grid, based on value added. But the article fails to impress as a description of a developed tool for saving jobs and boosting investment because it appears to have ignored certain fundamental prerequisites, such as:

1. The definition of enterprise so that the personnel concerned can see they are influencing its profitability, eg, with regard to the members of a group under common management.

2. The definition of profitability especially in times of rapidly changing values, eg, the need for return on investment to be based on current value accounting standards or some other measure which is more rational than that of historic "funny money".

Yours truly,
ARNOLD BRETT,
32 Nicolson Road,
Wandsworth,
London, S.W.18,
January 31.

Has local democracy been lost on coal site?

From Mr R. Hall

Sir, As one who is about to be engulfed by a 540-acre open cast site, I am not at all reassured by the tidy and rosy picture painted of the activity by the chairman of the Open Cast Executive, NCB (January 30). His justification may sound very plausible to the bureaucrats, but real people have to suffer in the operational area.

Can Mr Davies explain why the local community's feelings and an independent inquiry have been flouted? What has happened to Mr Bean's much-vaunted ideas of local democracy? Now we know that

quotas came first.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HALL,
The Old Hall,
Oughterside,
Aspsall,
Cheshire,
CA5 2NF,
January 31.

site, yet the Energy Secretary rejected his findings because a quota of 15 million tons had to be met. In this way some of the most productive agricultural land in Cumbria on the edge of the Lake District National Park has to be sacrificed for the sake of squaring some figures.

Can Mr Davies explain why the local community's feelings and an independent inquiry have been flouted? What has happened to Mr Bean's much-vaunted ideas of local democracy? Now we know that

quotas came first.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HALL,
The Old Hall,
Oughterside,
Aspsall,
Cheshire,
CA5 2NF,
January 31.

The Luddite attitude of some unions

From Mr D. A. Harris

Sir, Infusion of capital into industry, whether from the open market into private industry from the taxpayer into nationalized industry, makes sense in leads via greater productivity to a lowering of prices the consumer and increases exports, but all too often expensive modernization plant has been immediately followed, or even prevented by union opposition or obstruction and a form of blacking to preserve redundant jobs to extort all the "profits" the union members benefit.

It is not "union-bashing" quote examples: it is important that the electorate aware of the harm being done to the national economy by "Luddite" behaviour of unions, even in the late twentieth century—with the such approval of many in Labour Party. So here some examples:

Blastfurnacemen's conduct for operating the new works in South Wales.

Railwaymen's insistence unnecessary extra men on Huddersfield (The Times, Jan 11).

Printing workers' resistance to modern machines.

Dockers' opposition to container traffic.

The Chancery's recent case of the benefits from investment appears ignored the possibility much of the investment may be prevented, or nullified, this kind of action.

Can any reliable way devised by either party ensure cooperation from shop floor when new equipment and techniques are introduced?

Yours faithfully,
D. A. HARRIS,
Foxdale House,
Andover Down,
Hampshire,
January 30.

Accountants should control our finances

From Mr E. M. Jones

Sir, While congratulating Jan Byatt on attaining an important post at the Treasury, I am sure accountants should in charge of the country's finances, not economists.

I am looking forward to day when a comprehensive balance sheet showing a cash and liabilities is a factual item, especially showing hidden assets which become lost amid the vast of treasury accounts.

I do not think economists have had the training to undertake this work and they divert an urgent and necessary requirement.

Yours faithfully,
E. M. JONES,
15 Nightingale House,
Du Cané Road,
London, W12 0DH,
January 31.

Govan stewards accept switch of Polish order

By Peter Hill

Shop stewards at Govan Shipbuilders at the Upper Clyde yesterday decided to recommend the go-ahead on construction of the three vessels for Poland transferred to the yard because of labour troubles at Swan Hunter on Tyne.

British Shipbuilders planned originally to build seven ships on Tyne. Later this was reduced to four, worth £52m, but because of the continuing labour troubles at the Swan Hunter yards, the state group switched the orders to Govan and Smith's Dock on the Tees.

Shop stewards at Govan, anxious not to create bitterness with workers on the Tyne, sought approval from the shipbuilding committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to go ahead with construction of the transferred ships. The confederation endorsed British Shipbuilders' decision earlier this week.

After the meeting yesterday, Mr James Airlie, convenor, said that the stewards would be recommending a meeting on Wednesday, that workers should proceed with work on the Polish ships.

Computer pay dispute threatens Lloyds Bank

By Peter Hill

Data processing staff at Lloyds Bank may be balloted by the National Union of Bank Employees on whether to take industrial action in a dispute over unsocial hours payments.

A union official said: "Only 250 staff are involved but if they took action, it would cripple the bank's accountancy system and close the cash dispensing machines which are on a line to the computer."

The union's national executive, which is meeting this week, approved the ballot if further talks with the management on Tuesday fail to find a solution.

Unsocial hours payments range between 10 and 50 per cent, and the dispute centres on the method of assessment.

Fall in EEC output

Industrial production in the European Community declined 0.3 per cent between October and November, showing a year-on-year decline of 2.2 per cent, Eurostat, the EEC Statistics Office, reported in Brussels. The November index, stood at 116.2 (1970 equals 100). The decline in production was "very marked" in West Germany and in The Netherlands.

GEC storemen sit in

A protest sit-in by storekeepers at four GEC factories in Coventry yesterday may lead to extensive day-off as components supplies dry up. The 300 men who issue and distribute vital materials and parts to some 6,000 production employees have taken the action in support of a wage claim.

Oil price regulator

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is planning to produce a "model" to regulate oil price differentials by the end of this year. After a two-day meeting in Geneva of ministers from five Opec members producing heavy crude oil, officials said an overall plan for pricing various grades of crude would elimi-

In brief

note the need for individual countries to make small, unscheduled price adjustments, in order to retain their share of the market.

Textile monitor

Britain's textile and clothing industries are to monitor the level of imports during the next twelve months. Information collected will be used to assist the Departments of Trade and Industry in monitoring the trends under the new bilateral agreements with developing countries established under the terms of the Gatt Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

New airline

Formation of Scimitar Airlines, a passenger and cargo airline to be based in Britain was announced yesterday. One of its shareholders is an unnamed merchant in the United Arab Emirates. Its chairman and chief executive is Mr M. A. Guinane, who was formerly managing director of British Caledonian.

Money guides aim at financial education

Lloyds Bank is launching a £500,000 campaign to help educate the public about financial matters. It has prepared four money guides which recommend the National Savings Bank and building societies, as well as Lloyds. The guides cover finance, women and money, tax and the particular problems of the school-leaver about to start work.

Mr John Davis, deputy general manager, says the bank hopes to earn good will—and new customers—by helping people to help themselves.

The guides are based on a series of market research studies

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury:

End of period	£m	Change
1977		
Jan 7,198	4,186	+3,067
Feb 7,787	4,546	+591
March 9,618	5,592	+1,831
April 10,130	5,982	+512
May 9,901	5,760	-229
June 11,572	6,727	+1,871
July 13,422	7,725	+1,850
Aug 14,852	8,521	+1,430
Sept 17,171	9,826	+2,319
Oct 20,211	10,987	+3,040
Nov 20,394	11,227	+193
Dec 20,557	10,715	-183
1978		
Jan 20,668	10,691	+311

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Confidence returns to sterling Eurobonds

A doubtful debut, the sterling Euro-market has now gained confidence; at least two issues by Rowntree Mackin and the European Investment Bank encountered strong demand and are being followed by a £15m issue from a consortium of banks. The market is now so confident that the 10 1/2 per cent coupon is the same as on Rowntree's issue, there is a bidding fund and the 10-year issue there is an effectively maturity of two years.

There is every reason for confidence, however. The response to Rowntree's issue was that it was increased in size from £15m to £20m, priced at a small premium of 100 1/2 yesterday holding its price well in the market. The talk, meanwhile, is that there are some dangerously exposed positions in other sterling issues which will be difficult to close and which could elicit higher prices.

The market has recovered every hit as it collapsed only two months ago an unfortunate glut of three issues into the market immediately after Lending Rate was boosted by two.

Such was the scale of price falls between three and four points in issues—that serious questions were about the market's capacity to absorb more paper at all.

Investor liquidity in the Eurobond market is high and there are virtually no illiquid issues being offered. Orion Bank included Eurobond interest and principal repayments alone in January at a while some has found its way quickly, much has clearly been looking out in non-dollar bonds. Witness also a re-off in D mark issues. The earlier, held sterling issues have moved into bands and prices have, in some cases, recovered their previous losses.

Issues are now believed to be in the market, but issuing houses are likely to be more sophisticated than in the past. There seems to be a full awareness of such a young, unproven market to be exploited with caution.

sharing

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Liberal Party a long standing dream at least partially true, as the government declares its intention to a tax incentives for profit sharing, step down a road, which, potentially, could lead to a fundamental shift ownership of British companies. But by a small step.

Changes to tax law proposed by the government will encourage schemes to be put in place, but there is no element of enforcement. Existing Company Law and exchange rules, the right to decide their schemes should go ahead with rest with the existing shareholders. Any change when the Companies Bill is passed by the end of this year, with the Second EEC Directive, any Law comes into being. But the idea of the most important of the alternative incentive proposals, is such a step of present ownership will be

apart the major drawback to the introduction of the consultative document is negotiations over the next incomes policy which is due to come in August, a month after the Act becomes law. The Liberals' schemes would not fall within the lines, should any exist, but that a person per year in allotted which would be subject to income tax held for five years or more, a severe distorting factor to any. It might, however, encourage as to press for schemes to be introduced.

There are further reservations. The government has succeeded in gaining far more than it had been thought the revenue would ever allow. A victory is nevertheless a distortion for the market and the savings system. An alternative is that they workers in the public sector and another tax factor to personal income alternative is performance-

linked cash bonuses paid to workers in a general tax structure which did not penalise investment in the way it does at present.

The whole subject is worthy of wide debate. The real question, though, is whether share ownership schemes are wanted by workers. For if they are not, they will have little effect on productivity, and that is the final analysis is what incentive schemes should be all about.

Food retailers

Consequences of the price war

Food retailing is experiencing a major upheaval as the price war continues. And, to judge from this week's estimate from International Stores that food chain store profits could be halved this year, the trauma is far from over.

Tesco's decision to drop Green Shield stamps, the symbolic start of the war, was as much a response to the factors which have led to the present climate in the High Street as it was a cause. For food retailers' net margins have been under pressure for some time, squeezed by the fall in consumer spending, by price restraint and by heavy investment by the big chains which has led to excess capacity.

All this may be good news for consumers, but for the stock market it raises the crucial question of what will happen to margins. After a fall last year of about two percentage points to gross margins by food retailers, a further decline of at least one point is expected during 1978.

A few analysts now expect that the final quarter of this year will see a recovery of gross margins alongside higher wages, although higher disposable income might create a preference for more expensive foods, a development which could partly offset the more pessimistic assumptions.

Another aspect of price cutting is the stores' need to close uneconomic units. Despite acknowledged over-capacity in the sector, several big groups are planning extensive developments—Tesco, for example, will spend £45m over the next two years, though not all of it will be on food retailing.

Most of these factors have already been discounted by the market so that the sector is now selling at around 11 1/2 times earnings, roughly 25 per cent above the market. But until they are better able to assess what the final effect of the present price war will be, investors would be wise to remain cautious about the sector.



These are uncertain times for Mr Paul Tapscott, chairman of Associated Fisheries (above), as he awaits the outcome of talks on the EEC fishing dispute. Associated increased pre-tax profits by 85 per cent to £3.5m last year despite an exceptional depreciation provision of more than £1m. Meanwhile, disposals in the food processing side will have transformed the balance sheet to provide net cash of just under £7m.

But with most of the distant water fleet now in dock and a declining catch from the in-shore partnerships, Associated's fishing activities have run into losses; the group barely broke even in the first three months of the current year.

Interim figures will be "well below" last year's and unless Mr Silkin can at least wrest the principle of a 50-mile United Kingdom "preference limit" from fellow EEC ministers prospects could be bleak. Associated's shares down 5p to 55p yesterday, where they sell on a historic p/e ratio of more than 7, and yield just over 8 after a recovery-based dividend boost, must be vulnerable while the EEC wrangle continues.

"The real purpose of profit sharing is to show that the worker is treated as a partner, and that the division of the proceeds of industry is not a mystery concocted from him, but is based upon known and established rules to which he is a party." The Liberal Party's Yellow Book, 1928.

The Inland Revenue's consultative document, published yesterday, rightly points out that profit sharing is not a necessary part of the encouragement of share ownership, nor vice versa, and that relief from tax is not essential for either purpose. It is, nevertheless, widely recognised to be a legitimate use of the tax system to achieve, if only by gentle encouragement, objectives that are considered to be socially desirable; and this is the aim of the tax incentives for profit sharing contained in the consultative document.

The document starts by describing the present unfavourable tax regime applicable to employee share ownership, under which, in effect, any benefit (by way of the issue of shares, or the exercise of options, or a loan on favourable terms to assist in the acquisition of shares) is liable to income tax. It then proceeds to suggest three possible methods to ameliorate that regime.

Methods I and II differ only marginally. The first suggests a specific allocation from a company's profits made to an employee on condition that he applies it, after deduction of tax under PAYE, to the acquisition of shares at a heavy discount on their market value (30 per cent to take account of restrictions to be imposed, presumably on dividend, transfer and voting, and further 10 per cent for "lock-in"). The second, however, is a simple application by the employee of a comparable amount of net income to the subscription of similarly discounted shares on the same terms and conditions.

As will be seen from the table the tax saving to the employee under method I or II is minimal and his employing company in fact incurs additional taxation compared with an equivalent payment of remuneration. This last point arises because

Philip Goldenberg discusses the Inland Revenue's consultative document on company profit sharing schemes

Fair shares for all the workers

MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION—COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Method	I or II	III
Cost to company(1)	£37	£500
Cost to shareholders (dilution)	153	Nil
Additional tax incurred by company(2)	54	Nil
Value to participant	415	500
Tax payable by participant	135(3)	85(4)
Net value to participant	280	415
Tax saved by participant(5)	6	85

- Notes:
- (1) Deductible for corporation tax purposes.
 - (2) Compared with £500 of remuneration, assumed to be deductible for corporation tax purposes at 52%.
 - (3) On original bonus of £387 at 34%.
 - (4) Assuming shares held for between five and ten years.
 - (5) As against comparable remuneration at 34%.

own basis of allocation; and a value formula, which is increasingly considered more appropriate, can equally well be used.

Finally, under all methods, actual gains by employees arising from any increase in the value of their shares while they hold them will be subject only to capital gains tax. In practice, however, there will either be no charge (if disposals in any year do not exceed £1,000) or in the vast majority of cases a reduced charge at an effective rate of 17 per cent.

Shareholders' approval: perhaps most controversially of all, there is no requirement that any scheme requires approval by a company's shareholders in general meeting. This represents a change from the Conservative legislation of 1972 and is perhaps influenced by European thinking. Article 41 of the Second EEC Directive on Company Law, which provides that many of the provisions to be introduced in the forthcoming Companies Bill, specifically permits derogations, in the case of employee share schemes, from the normal rules requiring approval by a general meeting of all proposed share issues. This provision has been covered in the new Companies Bill, although it was omitted from the

consultative document published by the Department of Trade last July. The Stock Exchange, too, will have to give consideration to relaxing its present requirements that share schemes be approved in general meeting, and should find it much easier to do so in the case of method III, where no element of dilution is involved.

The underlying principle for dispensing with the consent of a general meeting is that it falls upon the directors of a company to balance the respective interests of the providers of capital on the one hand and labour on the other and it is hardly desirable for one such provider to have a veto as regards the treatment of the other.

Private companies: as with the 1972 legislation, the proposed schemes are not confined to companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange, but may be adopted by private companies, so long as they are not themselves subsidiaries of other companies. An obvious problem for private companies is to find buyers for shares that employees wish to sell, but many private companies which already have employee share ownership have since set up a company-financed trust for this purpose which has all the

employees as potential beneficiaries. This arrangement could usefully be applied by a private company in conjunction with the proposed schemes set out in the Revenue document.

Liberal scheme: it is no secret that method III was advocated by the Liberals. It seems to us to be more advantageous to both company and employee—more likely, as there is no dilution element, to avoid the disfavour of institutional investors; simpler in its concept; and, because the shares involved are identical with other shares, more suitable for breaking down the barriers of interest between employees and the generality of shareholders.

It is significant that it is compatible with ICFE's scheme, which has worked so well for an long, and with the scheme favoured by Marks and Spencer only last year.

Finally, the detail of this subject should not blind anybody to the principles. It is a truism, that for years, this country's economic performance and social cohesion have been suffered from its industrial divisions; and that, in terms of economics alone, the additional investment that industry so desperately needs can only come from the deferral of consumption.

Given 10 years without legislative interference—and tax incentives for profit sharing given by Labour Government are unlikely to be reversed by a subsequent government of whatever colour—profit sharing can help to break into the virtuous cycle of investment by employees in place of immediate consumption; and, in social terms, can help us towards that cohesion, which is an essential step in the creation of a Liberal society.

The author is a solicitor practising in the City of London and specializing in company and commercial law. He is also prospective Liberal parliamentary candidate for Eton and Slough. He was involved on behalf of the Liberal Party in the negotiations which have led to the publication of the consultative document.

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Paul Routledge

Engineering pay: can a national agreement be reached?

The dilemma is this: if the employers concede a national package worth 10 per cent on the pay bill, there will be nothing left for domestic bargaining where most rises are now negotiated?

threat. Certainly, the employers have been taking seriously and have given some thought to what it would mean for the 6,000 EEF member companies who employ one and a quarter million workers.

The dilemma is this: if the employers concede a national package worth 10 per cent on the pay bill, there will be nothing left for domestic bargaining where most rises are now negotiated. Even the present offer could operate only on the termination of these three plant deals, if it is to comply with incomes policy.

A senior EEF negotiator said that the employers wanted a national agreement if one could be negotiated that complied with the terms of the new lines. "But it's not so important that we are prepared to have an agreement which concedes more than we can pay, or brings down sanctions on our members."

"Certainly, there is no panic. Reaction is very cool. Our members want a national agreement, but not at any price."

Three years of incomes policy have distorted engineering pay particularly badly. The last minimum time rate agreement was concluded in 1975 and the last phase was paid in February, but the industry has not yet received its full share of the 10 per cent limit.

But left-wingers, who make up almost half of the 52-man policy-making national committee of the dominant engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, want no truck with wage restraint. The engineering workers' executive is now committed to a recall of this body before deciding on its next move, if negotiations collapse today.

Mr Bob Wright, the militant candidate for the AUEW presidency in next month's elections, has attacked what he called "a conspiracy of silence" among union leaders who are privately sympathetic to the Government's policy, despite the TUC's official commitment to free collective bargaining. "So it is temptingly easy to see the union's refusal to accept the present offer—also certain to be improved during today's talks—as a plot to win votes for the left candidate: easy, but misleading, because there is

no homogenous political view among the CSEU negotiators. It is more likely that the threats of a total switch to local bargaining are the normal stock-in-trade of wage negotiations.

In that context, consideration of the experience of 1972 when the engineering unions sought to win at plant level what they could not achieve in national negotiations is useful. The unions failed and the EEF are confident that even if national negotiations collapse, there will not be a free-for-all.

National wage determination will not cease simply because the machinery for its implementation is suspended. There will still be central advice from 100-110 Street as to how engineering companies should respond to a local onslaught for rises larger than would have been permitted at national level. Past experience suggests that the line will hold.

So, it is argued on the employers' side, there is not much percentage for the unions to kick over the traces. Sporn of their national authority they will be back within a year to renegotiate an agreement to safeguard the lower wage and to reassess their standing vis-à-vis the shop floor.

Whatever the outcome of today's talks, the unthinkable has been thought and the buildings have not fallen down. The engineering industry without a national agreement would be a more argumentative place to do business, but perhaps no less successful. The only clear thing to emerge so far from the present pay huddle is that a serious reappraisal of wage bargaining in the industry is overdue.

Business Diary: Stylish choice for Debenhams • BCal's 'Perry Mason'

becomes the new of the Fashion vision of Debenhams' recent of a formal of British is Crabtree.

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Debenhams owns filler chais, which ity shoes made by he original Rayne- ness, which ro- £30m worth of ar.



Debenhams' Edward Rayne: a foot on either side of the Atlantic.

Best known as the Royal shoemaker, Rayne perhaps makes his most important contribution in his knowledge of American retailing practice and procedure, his commitment to the best in design and his tireless involvement with the pushing of British fashion abroad, exemplified by his work for the European Trade Committee in France.

He is a former member of the board of governors of the American Co-Operative, which includes the high style store Bonwit Teller,

and will remain chairman and managing director of H. & M. Rayne Limited, the family company which Genesco sold to Debenhams.

Leonard N. Bebbick, a partner in the Washington law firm of Martin, Winfield, Thaler and Bebbick, who has just been elected to the board of Caledonian Airways, the parent company of the British Caledonian group, is known in London as the Perry Mason of aviation regulation.

His theatrical style tends to clash with the quasi-judicial atmosphere at fares hearings conducted by the Civil Aviation Authority, where hushed pleadings and pin-stripe trousers are the order of the day. He has even been known to stride up and down the room when making his submissions.

Bebick is well known to aviation legal circles over here, since he has been presenting cases for BCal and its predecessor airlines for 16 years and was made joint company secretary in 1964.

The knowhow of this Yale man is likely to be least on heavily by BCal, which has recently opened a scheduled service between Garwick and Houston, Texas, and wants to expand in the southern states.

Horrocks, the 47-year-old former Ford and Edsel executives, was tipped in this column for a key post in Michael Edwards' new-look British Leyland.

Horrocks, is, as was announced this week, getting the hottest seat in the motor industry—that of managing director of Austin-Morris. The heart of the old BMC group, it has staggered from crisis to crisis for the past 10 years and is losing so much money that cynics insist that Edwards has cut it loose from the more promising Jaguar-Rover-Triumph so it will not infect the rest of the group.

But why did Horrocks, one of the most head-hunted men in the country, for whom col-



Leyland's Ray Horrocks: will chance be a fine thing?

leagues were predicting a dazzling career, leave a top American group for such a chancy appointment?

He told us that he had completed his assignment at Eaton—reorganizing its loss-making materials handling operations in Europe—only last week. On another challenge. He was still at heart "a motor man."

He had followed Leyland developments and when it became apparent that the "monolithic" structure of Leyland Cars "was to be broken up, he saw an opportunity to run his own business in the automotive industry."

But he frankly admits that the creation of separate car companies has thrown up a host of problems. The worst is almost certainly the creation of clearly defined boundaries between Austin-Morris and Jaguar-Rover-Triumph—the integration of the past two and a half years means that some plants are serving both.

Today is the last day of an extraordinary wine sale. Extraordinary not only for the lowness of the prices, though that has been remarkable, but also for the chaos in which it has been conducted.

IDV, one of Britain's largest wine and spirit groupings, planned it as a week-long clearance sale of stocks at their City Cellars in Midway Street and spent several thousand pounds advertising it.

crowds were so large that hundreds were turned away disappointed after hours of queuing in the cold. Since then suppliers have had to be brought daily from the company's big depot at Harlow.

On both Tuesday and Wednesday they were in better luck. On the latter day the company's embarrassment was compounded by blocked drains, which flooded the basement where the sale is conducted.

One of the cashiers put a notice up explaining that the bad smell was the drains, not the wine.

Those who got in found themselves contending for bargains with a variety of restaurateurs, hotel keepers, tenant landlords and wine merchants. Two free-boozing wine companies, Vin Russell of Warwick and Lawrence Hayward have had men stationed at the cellars each week and at the head of the queue every morning, hiving by the pallet-load as soon as new consignments appear.

The general verdict is that it has been crazy, but fun, with Morey St Denis 1964, for example, selling at only 32 1/2p a half (almost wholly on the trade). There may be some knock-down bargains among the less popular lines today.

The new group financial controller and company secretary of Ideal-Standard UK, a maker of sanitary and plumbing ware, is a Raymond Pige.

GARFORD-LILLEY INDUSTRIES LTD.

INTERIM REPORT

The Directors announce the unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th September, 1977 as follows:

	Half-year to 30.9.77	Half-year to 30.9.76
Turnover	1,987,598	1,596,077
Group Profit, before taxation	174,704	134,650
Taxation	90,846	70,018
Profit, after taxation	83,858	64,632
Earnings, per share	1.27p	0.98p

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend to shareholders of 0.175p a share (same) payable on 15th March 1978 to shareholders registered at close of business on 24th February 1978.

Whilst the above figures show encouraging progress, the Directors feel it only prudent to say that trading conditions are proving more difficult in the second half, and therefore the full year's results are not expected to show an increase proportionate to the interim figures.

All the Group's divisions are active, but profit margins are constantly under pressure, and whilst the long term prospects in Engineering are brightening somewhat, the current demand for new lines is progressing only very slowly. The Woodworking division is holding its own, but is not expected to contribute much to Group profits in the current year. A new activity, under the aegis of the Engineering division, to provide export transport services, which was started some years ago on a very small scale, has now developed into a modest but worthwhile enterprise on its own account and is expected to start contributing to Group profits in the current year.

John Foore

plant and machinery valuer

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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